Basara

8

ART & STORY BY
Sakura Kinoshita
x
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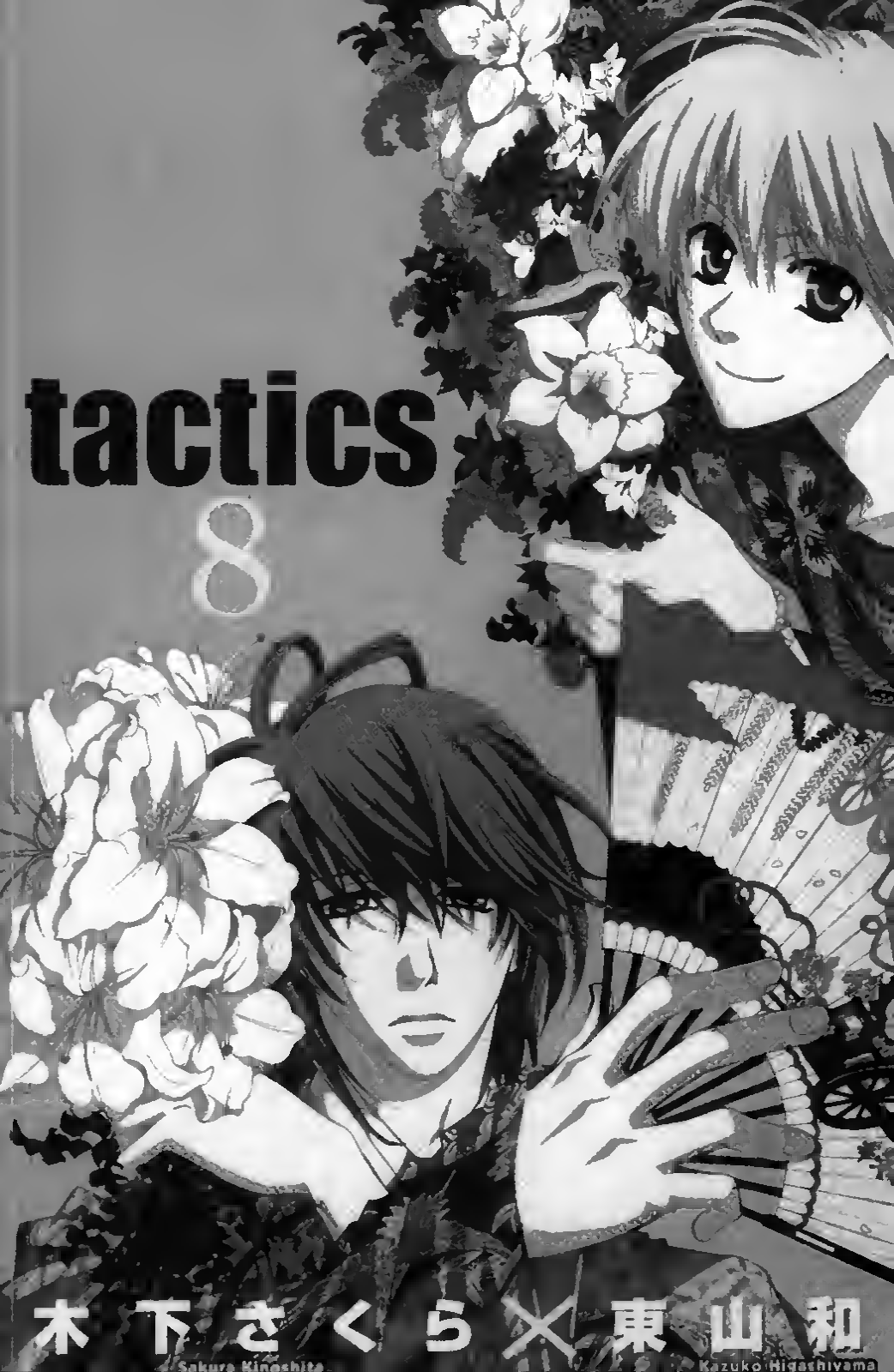
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Sakura Kinoshita
Kazuko Higashiyama

tactics

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Volume 8
by Sakura Kinoshita and
Kazuko Higashiyama

tactics Volume 8

Art & Story by Sakura Kinoshita and Kazuko Higashiyama

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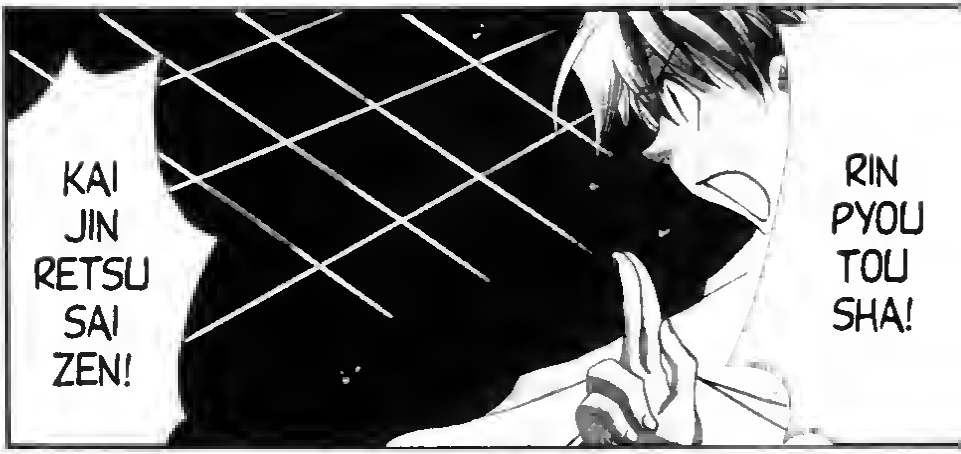
SHAME?
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THE SHAME YOU BROUGHT TO MASTER RAIKOU.
YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT THE TIME YOU AND MINAMOTO TRIED TO HEADHUNT HASUMI--
PREPARE YOURSELF, KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA.
OOP!

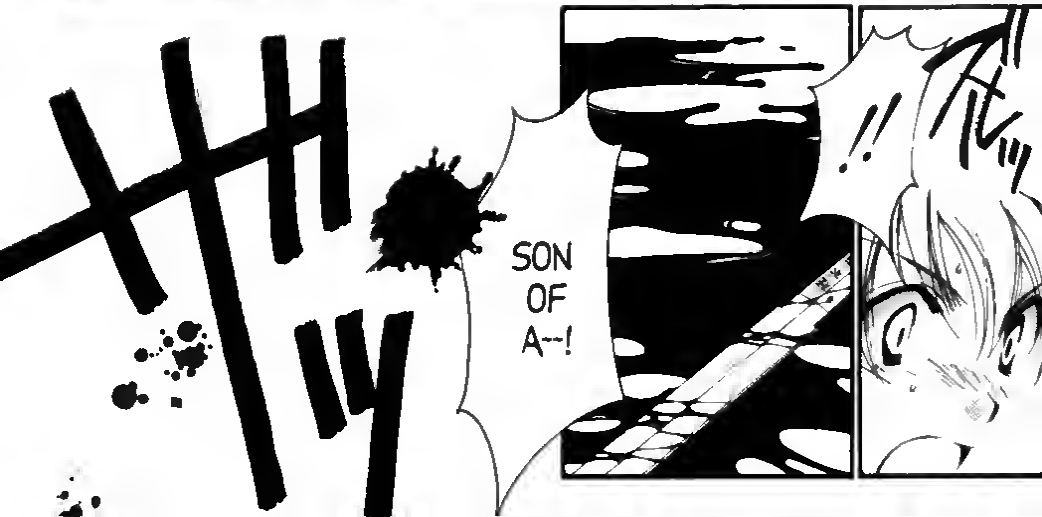

KAI JIN RETSU SAI ZEN!
RIN PYOU TOU SHA!

Memoirs of a Demon-Eating Tengu: The Fuji Tales Chimera Stage Part IV

tactics

ONBA SARADO SHAKOKU!
ON KIRI KYARA HARA HARA FUTARAN HOSOU SOWAKA
snap

HMM... YOU SHATTERED MY KUJI WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT
I SEE YOU'RE A TYPICAL MINAMOTO MAN SERVANT


SON OF A--!
!!

HMPH...
I SUPPOSE I ONLY GRAZED YOU AND YET...
THAT WOUND SHOWS EXACTLY HOW POWERFUL THIS FILTHY WEAPON IS!
YOU CAN'T HANDLE A BLADE WITH THOSE LITTLE WRISTS, BOOKWORM.
STICK TO YOUR STUDIES!

'KAY.
WHAT?!
?!
NISONBA
BAZARA
UNHATTA.

!!
SAKATA'S NOT A MAGIC-USER ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI.
BE GENTLE WITH HIM, WILL YOU?

WHAT ON EARTH COULD HAVE HAPPENED?!
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
THE BELLOWS EXPLODED!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT SLIGHTS FROM THE PAST. FOCUS ON THE FUTURE, I ALWAYS SAY...
HUH?!
SAKATA, YOU LAME-ASS!

...I SORTA FIGURED HE'D PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
SINCE HE WAS MUTTERING ABOUT HOW HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU, SENSEI...

.....
MY FAMILY SUCCEEDED IN ITS EXTER-MINATION BUSINESS BECAUSE OF HIM.
IF ANYTHING, I SHOULD BE THANKING SENSEI.

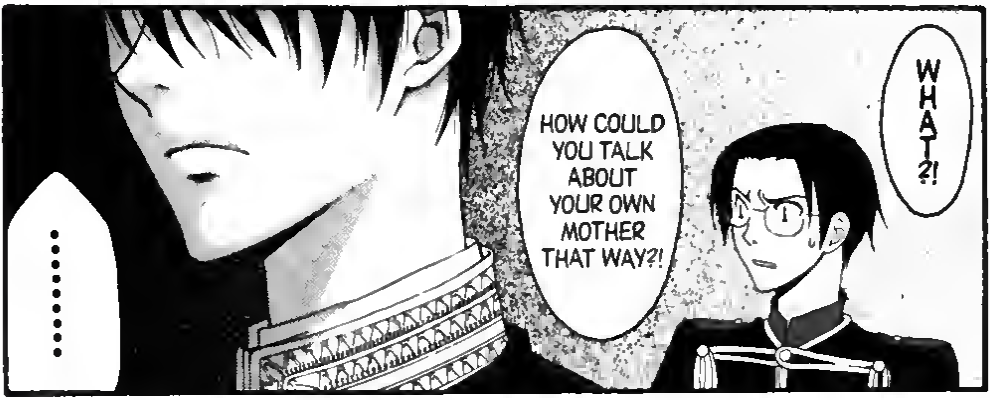
...WAS THROUGH BREAKING THE DEMON-EATING TENGU'S SEAL.
THE ONLY WAY HE DID REALLY EMBARRASS ME...

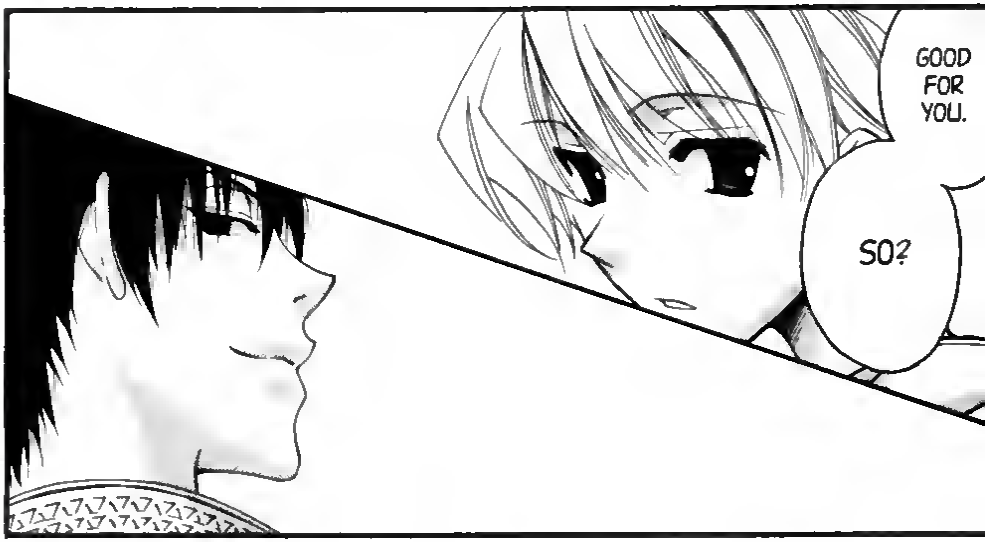
WHERE'S THE DEMON EATER NOW? ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING OR SOMETHING?
DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, JERK-OFF
YOU COULDN'T BREAK IT, MINAMOTO?
DON'T RUB IT IN. AND THAT REMINDS ME...
HOW COULD HE BREAK THE ONE THING I COULDN'T?
IT STILL PISSES ME OFF
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU CAN HANDLE YOUKAI AS EASILY AS YOU DO.
OOOP!
HEH HEH.
LISTEN, SENSEI...
I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE A DEAL.
...WHAT KIND OF DEAL?

ONE CONCERNING YOUR MOMMY DEAREST.
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU VISIT A GRAVE THREE TIMES A MONTH...
IT'S YOUR MOTHER'S, ISN'T IT?
SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY CARE A LOT ABOUT HER, I'LL USE THE CHIMERA'S POWER TO RESURRECT HER FOR YOU.
IN EXCHANGE, YOU BREAK OFF THE NAME CONTRACT YOU HAVE WITH THE DEMON-EATING TENGU.
I KNOW YOU'VE SEEN THE CHIMERA'S POWER AT WORK HERE.
JUST THINK OF IT... MAMA BACK WITH HER PRECIOUS LITTLE BOY...
HOW ABOUT IT, ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI?

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU . . .
I ONLY GO TO THAT WOMAN'S GRAVE TO MAKE SURE SHE ISN'T COMING BACK.

SHE WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS, YOU SEE.
SINCE SHE WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO DROP DEAD, I'D LIKE IT TO STAY THAT WAY.


WHAT?!
HOW COULD YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR OWN MOTHER THAT WAY?!
. . . . . .



FORGET THE DEAL.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'M NOT BREAKING MY CONTRACT WITH HARUKA
I HAVE THE ADVANTAGE HERE.
YOU WISH.
BUT I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH THE DEMON EATER SO COULD YOU CALL HIM HERE FOR ME?
HEY!
?!
YOU IN-GRATE!

tactics 8

-KRE
YOU HAVE TO STAY ON YOUR TOES
CAREFUL SENSEI
STOP BEING PIG-HEADED AND JUST CALL THE DEMON EATER!
I WANTED HIS FRIENDSHIP, YOU PRICK!
NO!
DIDN'T YOU BREAK HIS SEAL SO HE COULD WATCH YOUR BACK AT TIMES LIKE THIS??
OH, PLEASE.
CALL HIM BEFORE I--
ANTARIWON, SOKUMETSU-GOKU, PIRARA-PIRARI, SOKUMETSU-ME!, ZANZANKI-ME!
!!

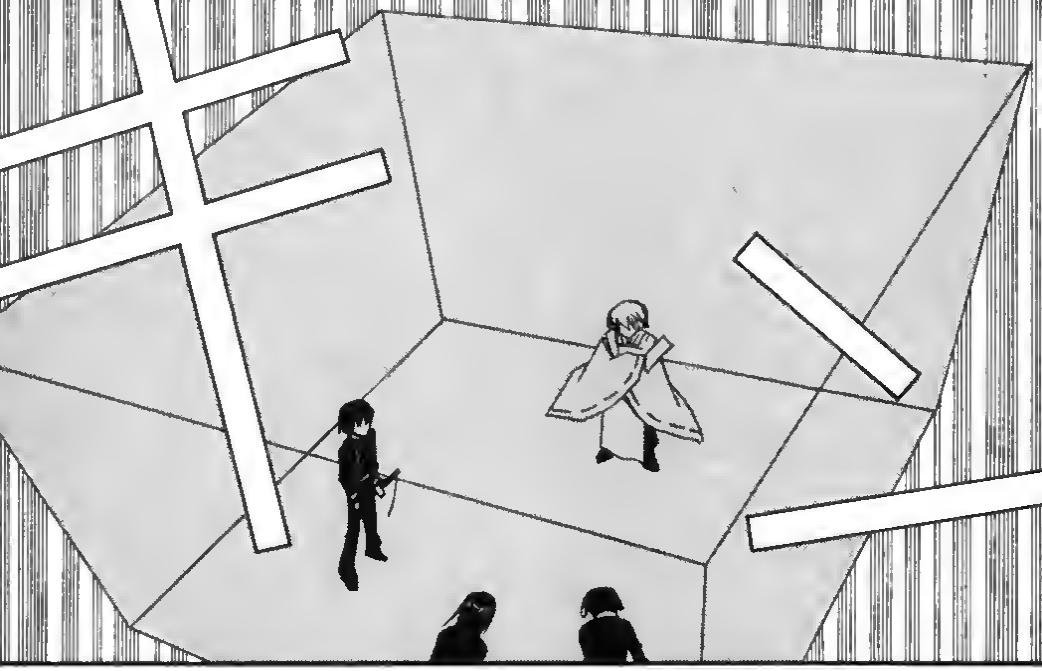
...HOW DID YOU EVADE THAT?
I HAVE MY WAYS.
!
OW! Call off your youkai SHOUSUKE!
DEMON EATER IS OUR MASTER NOW ♡
SHOUSUKE canceled Your Contract?! Of all the--

THANKS FOR THE SAVE, HARUKA.
ABOUT BEFORE--
GET ON YOUR FEET. FAST.
THESE TWO? NEED A SEVERE BEATING.
THIS IS GOING TO HURT.
OH. UM... RIGHT.
BUT YOU TWITS DESERVE IT.

...BUT WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, PHYSICAL COMBAT'S HIS FORTE.
.....
SAKATA KNOWS ENOUGH SPELLS TO HANDLE SMALL-SCALE YOUKAI...
I STILL THINK HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE DEMON EATER, THOUGH.
FOO!

DAMMIT!
IT'S TIME TO EVEN THE ODDS A LITTLE. ♡
WHAT THE--?!
NO WORRIES. IF I'M SAKATA'S ASSIST, I'M SURE THE TENGU'S ASSIST IS ON HIS WAY.
RIGHT, SEN--?
.....
WHY AREN'T YOU HELPING YOUR DEMON EATER, SENSEI?
AND IT SEEMS UNFAIR TO BE HOGGING THE RAIJUU PROTECTION
HARUKA HAS HIGH STANDARDS--IT'S EASIER FOR ME TO LET HIM FIGHT HIS OWN BATTLES. AND THESE RAIJUU REALLY, REALLY HATE YOU.

IS THAT RIGHT? THEN—
UH-OH!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN SCRATCHING HIM, SAKATA!
You're making me look bad, here!
S-SORRY, SIR!
ズル…
NOT AGAIN!
SCREW
!
THIS IS ANNOYING THE CRAP OUT OF ME. DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SPELLS!
ARE YOU LISTENING?! KANTAROU!

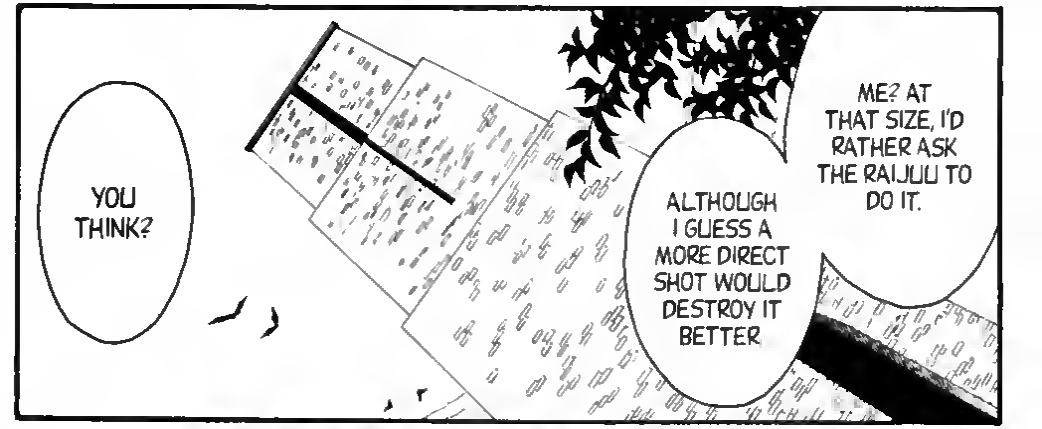


HMM.
I'M WILLING TO BET OUR CHARMS WON'T WORK IN THIS PLACE.

WHAT DID HE--?
A FORCE FIELD.

I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU WERE BEING SO QUIET. YOU WERE PREPPING YOURSELF FOR THE FORCE FIELD!
THE GEARS ARE ALWAYS TURNING.
IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS IN ONE PIECE, THEN I HAVE A DEAL TO OFFER YOU.

YOU WANT ME TO CANCEL THE WEAPON PRODUCTION IN THIS VILLAGE?!
GET REAL!
YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO WHAT I WANTED, SO NOW I'M NOT LISTENING TO YOU!
I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T.
HARUKA, BE A DEAR AND LEVEL THAT BUILDING.


YOU THINK?
ALTHOUGH I GUESS A MORE DIRECT SHOT WOULD DESTROY IT BETTER
ME? AT THAT SIZE, I'D RATHER ASK THE RAIJUU TO DO IT.

OH. THEN, I GUESS ...
THEY CAN'T MAKE THEIR WEAPONS WITHOUT IT, OBVIOUSLY!
Master raikou, calm down!
WHine... WHine WHine
WHY DO YOU WANT TO CRUSH IT, ANYWAY?
WHAT TO DO... WHAT TO DO...

OH, HARUKA ...
YOU'RE SO ETHICAL.
Heh Heh
...I COULD SAY I'M BREAKING IT TO DRIVE THE PEOPLE OFF THIS MOUNTAIN.
I'M GUESSING YOU WANT ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI TO CANCEL YOUR CONTRACT NOW.
BY THE WAY, DEMON EATER. DID TSUGUMI TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR NAME?
CANCEL...?

KANTAROU'S MY MASTER NOW.
I WILL NOT GO AGAINST PROVIDENCE.
IF KANTAROU'S NOT WILLING TO NULLIFY MY NAME CONTRACT, THEN THAT'S HIS RIGHT.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
I LIKE MY LIFE. IT'S BETTER THAN IT'S EVER BEEN.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY, I FEEL AT HOME.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT. TSUGUMI MUST'VE TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE--
LOOK...
I CAN'T EAT DEMONS, BUT NOBODY AROUND ME CARES...
...SO I CAN LIVE WITHOUT MY FULL POWERS.

HARUKA...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
THAT I'M YOUR FRIEND.
AREN'T I?
OF... OF COURSE YOU ARE.
OF COURSE WE'RE... FRIENDS.
HUH?

WELL, AREN'T YOU COCKY AS ALL HELL?!
H-HEY!
?!
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITHOUT YOUR FULL POWERS, TENGU?
SNAP
I REALIZED YOU WERE PUTTING IT UP LONG BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY DID.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, SWEET-HEART.
HA HA HA!
WHY ISN'T THE FORCE FIELD WORKING?!

?!

NOW WHAT?
BOY, THEY SURE CAN HOLD A GRUDGE.
OW OW OW! STOP THAT!
WE WON'T LET YOU NEAR LORD KAN!
AGH! YOU SUCK!

HUFF... NNGH!
I NEED TO END THIS. WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO TAKE DOWN A PAIR OF ASS--
HARUKA AND THE RAIJUU CAN ONLY PESTER MINAMOTO AND SAKATA FOR SO LONG.

HUFF HUFF
HUFF
TSUGUMI-CHAN?
HUFF
TSUGUMI-CHAN, WAIT!
COME TO ME, TSUGUMI.
HOW'D YOU GET PASS THE FORCE FIELD AROUND THE CAVE?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

SON OF A--!
YOU'RE HER MASTER, MINAMOTO?!
DEMON EATER AND HIS LITTLE FRIENDS WILL HELP ME PROTECT YOU.
YOU POOR THING...YOU HURT YOUR PRETTY FACE AGAIN. BUT DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS...
?!
WAIT A MINUTE... YOU MEAN TSUGUMI-CHAN'S THE CHIMERA FROM THAT LEGEND...
YORIMASA MINAMOTO. SOUND FAMILIAR?
TECHNICALLY, I'M HER SECOND MASTER-- BUT HER FIRST MASTER WAS A TRAITOR TO MY FAMILY...

BINGO. YORIMASA DIDN'T EXTERMINATE THE CHIMERA-- HE EMPLOYED IT.
...AND SHE'S BOUND TO A DOUBLE NAME CONTRACT?!
PER-SUADE?
I WAS ORDERED... BY RAIKOU... TO PERSUADE THE DEMON EATER.
THAT'S RIGHT, TSUGUMI. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE DEMON EATER STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH YOU'RE SUFFERING.
THE VILLAGERS HERE MIGHT HAVE PLACED THE CURSE IN THE FIRST PLACE. THAT STUFF HAPPENED ALL THE TIME BACK THEN.
BUT BECAUSE HE DISPOSED OF THE CHIMERA'S GRUDGE FOR THE IMPERIAL COURT... WELL...
GRIP
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT!
WHY DID YOU COME HERE, TSU-GUMI?

STOP IT!
AH!
LET'S GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS A BIT MORE CLEARLY, SHALL WE?

SHEESH... NO APPRECIATION. AND AFTER I SET UP THE RAIJUU TO AWAKEN YOUR FORGOTTEN PAST FOR YOU AND EVERYTHING.
.....
IF YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR FELLOW YOUKAI, DEMON EATER, THEN YOU'LL LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY!

I...
DEMON EATER... YOU HEARD MY WARNING. I KNOW YOU DID.
BUT IF YOU'VE MADE YOUR DECISION, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO SAY.

I CAME HERE...
...TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
S-SOME-THING'S COMING!

HUH?
TSUGUMI-CHAN'S CALLING FOR ALL THE SOULS IN THOSE DOLLS!
DAMN YOU, TSUGUMI!
HURRY, MISTER KANTAROU! WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
WHAT'VE YOU DONE TO MASTER RAIKOU?!
THANKS, TSUGUMI-CHAN! LET ME HANDLE THE REST

Miyako Katsuragi
MIYAKO-CHAN...
WHEN YOU SEE A FLASH OF LIGHT IN THE SKY, FOLLOW IT.
TELL THE OTHER SPIRITS TO DO THE SAME.
THAT LIGHT WILL BRING YOU TO WHERE YOUR FATHER IS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
-AKCRAH

KAN-CHAN...
HARUKA-CHAN...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

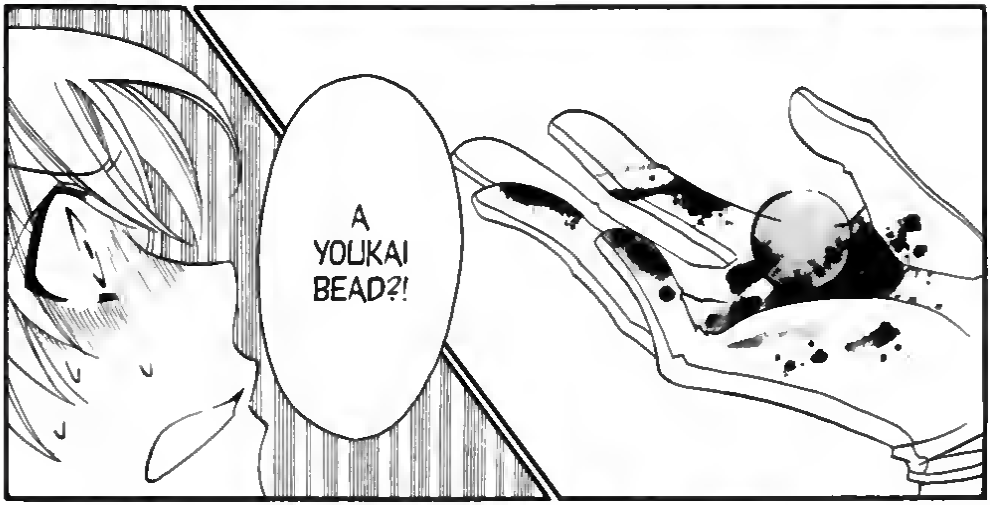
I'M PRAYING THAT ALL THE SPIRITS FIND THE PLACE THEY'RE MEANT TO GO TO.
I PROMISED THEM THEY WOULD.
!
TMP

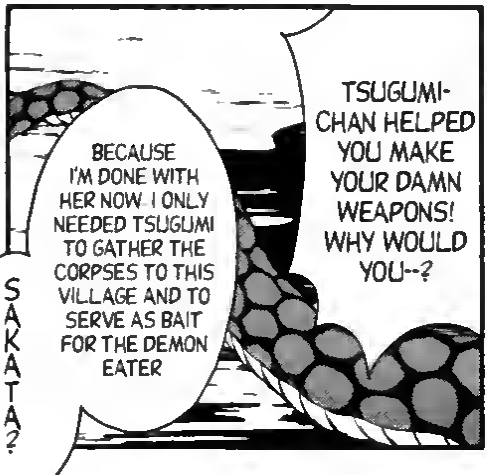
YOU DIRTY--!
STAB
?!
I GUESS THE CHIMERA STILL DIDN'T DISTRACT YOU ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET A GOOD HIT IN.
I'M GOING TO TEAR YOUR HEAD--
YOU...
HARUKA! ARE YOU OKAY?!
AGH!
TSUGUMI!...

LET'S PUT ON A LITTLE SHOW FOR THESE BOYS.
HUH?
PLIP
--!

LET THEM SEE YOUR LITTLE BEAD.

TSUGUMI...!
NOW YOU CAN GO JOIN YOU-KNOW-WHO.


A YOUKAI BEAD?!


TSUGUMI-CHAN HELPED YOU MAKE YOUR DAMN WEAPONS! WHY WOULD YOU--?
BECAUSE I'M DONE WITH HER NOW. I ONLY NEEDED TSUGUMI TO GATHER THE CORPSES TO THIS VILLAGE AND TO SERVE AS BAIT FOR THE DEMON EATER
SAKATA?

INSIDE THIS BEAD IS TSUGUMI'S POWER TO BRING THE DEAD BACK FROM THE UNDER-WORLD.
YUP. THE MASS OF YOUKAI POWER THAT EXISTS IN EACH YOUKAI.

PLEASE, SENSEI. I LOVE YOUKAI-- I REALLY DO.
I JUST EXPRESS THAT LOVE DIFFERENTLY FROM YOU I LOVE YOUKAI IN THE WAY I KNOW BEST
YOU KNOW THE DRILL.
RIGHT.
STOP IT!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH HER?!
I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEM HAPPY.
AND YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, SENSEI.
AND YOU THINK THAT MAKES THE YOUKAI HAPPY?!
HAPPY?

AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE YOUKAI, YOUR EGO STILL TAKES TOP PRIORITY.
SO YOU BROKE THROUGH MY BINDING SPELL. HMM? THAT MUST TAKE SOME TECHNIQUE. I'D LOVE TO SEE YOUR BEAD.
CRACK
.....
I THINK A YOUKAI'S BEAD REPRESENTS THE WORTH OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

MASTER RAIKOU!
...NN!
YOUR ANCESTORS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PAIN, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT TO KILL THEM.
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU...
HA HA!
...RAIKOU MINAMOTO.
WELL, LOOK AT YOU! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU WANT...

...YOU JUST CAN'T FIGHT YOUR INSTINCTS, DEMON-EATING TENGU!
HARUKA!

ナデナデ
YOU...
...IDIOT...
HUH?!
WATANABE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
MY NATURAL PLACE IS BY MASTER RAIKOU'S SIDE.
IT IS MY DUTY AS HIS SHIELD.

THUD
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP WATCH OVER HIM.
WHEN HE GETS TOO INVOLVED IN HIS GAMES, HE TENDS TO LOSE CONTROL....
HARUKA!
I'M FINE. JUST... TIRED.
...SIGH.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, HARUKA.

GAAAH! LADY KANAYA-KOGAMI!
CALM DOWN, MMKAY?
NOW, NOW...
OUR BAD LUCK STARTED THE MOMENT YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS ARRIVED!
LOOKS WHAT'S BECOME OF OUR VILLAGE! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!
WE'VE BEEN CURSED TO A LIFE OF DESTITUUUUUTION!
.....

!
YOU'RE ALL SKILLED WORKERS--YOU CAN MAKE A LIVING ANYWHERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU GUYS ARE OVERREACTING
UM?
Gripe
Gripe
GIMME THAT FOR A SECOND.
YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A DISGRACE TO THE CLAN, YOU DON'T DESERVE THE NAME OF THE TATARA!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! THAT BELONGS TO THE VILLAGERS!
I KNEW YOU STOLE IT! GIVE THAT BACK--IT'S MINE!
HEY!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN HERE'S YOUR TETSUZAN HISHO.

WHAAAAN!
ドキャーン!!

WHY DO YOU ALL FEEL SO BOUND BY THAT THING?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
THE PROOF OF OUR TRIBE'S VALIDITY!
SOME OUTSIDER WROTE IT. YOU CAN VALIDATE YOURSELVES WITH THE FRUITS OF YOUR OWN LABOR.
YOUR OWN SWEAT AND BLOOD PROVES YOUR EXISTENCE.
DON'T YOU SEE? YOU DON'T NEED SOME OLD TEXTS TO RULE YOUR SPIRIT.
LADY KANAYA-KOGAMI...
PRETTY SMOOTH, YOUKO-CHAN.
SHE'S RIGHT.

WE HAVE TO GO OUT INTO THE REST OF THE WORLD NOW
THERE'S NOTHING HOLDING US TO THIS MOUNTAIN ANYMORE.
TOURYOU...
YOU THREE HAVEN'T BROUGHT US BAD LUCK.
OUR EFFORTS WILL DO JUSTICE TO THE BLOOD OF OUR PROUD TATARA TRIBE.
FROM THIS POINT ON, WE'LL USE OUR ABILITIES TO ATTAIN WHAT WE WANT.
YOU'RE THE GODS WHO HAVE LED OUR PEOPLE TO THEIR NEW PATH.

...ARE YOU AWAKE, HARUKA?
CAN I COME IN?
YEAH.
.....
.....
LISTEN, KANTA--
AS ADULTS, IT'S NATURAL THAT WE SHOULD FEEL THIS WAY BUT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE SEE HOW THE HEAVENS CONSTANTLY TEST US WITH CHALLENGES SUCH AS THIS AND DON'T GET ME WRONG BUT--
KANTAROU?
MOOF!

NOW, YOU PUNCH ME!
YOUKO'S GOING TO GET US BOTH KILLED.
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Q.Q.Q.

STOP TALKING!
HARUKA! YOU BASHFUL LITTLE SWEET--
NngaH!

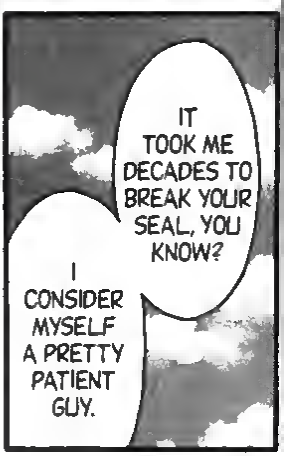
!!
WAIT! YOU HEARD HER ADVICE EARLIER?!
BUT I TOOK THE ONLY OPENING THAT I--

WOULD YOU TWO PLEASE BE SILENT?
I DO! I HAVE BEEN!
THEN LEARN TO PUNCH SOFTLY WHEN YOUR MASTER'S INVOLVED!
YOU LITERALLY ASKED FOR IT!
THAT HURT, YOU STUPID TENGU!
Waaaaaaaaaaaaa!

OW!
WHOOPS... I DID PUNCH YOU.

...NOW I'M EXHAUSTED.
I SECOND THAT.
WHEN WE GET BACK, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
WHAT WAS THAT?
KANTARO...
HMPH!
YOU'RE THE FIRST--AND PROBABLY LAST--MASTER I'VE EVER SMACKED.

UM... HARUKA...


IT TOOK ME DECADES TO BREAK YOUR SEAL, YOU KNOW?
I CONSIDER MYSELF A PRETTY PATIENT GUY.

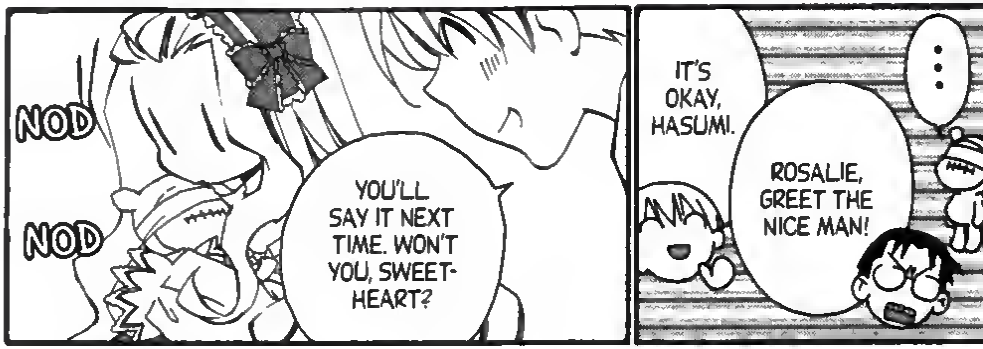
IT'S ABOUT MY FORMER MASTER.

I'M GLAD EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
SO I FEEL BAD THAT I WAS IMPATIENT AND LOST MY TEMPER WITH YOU.

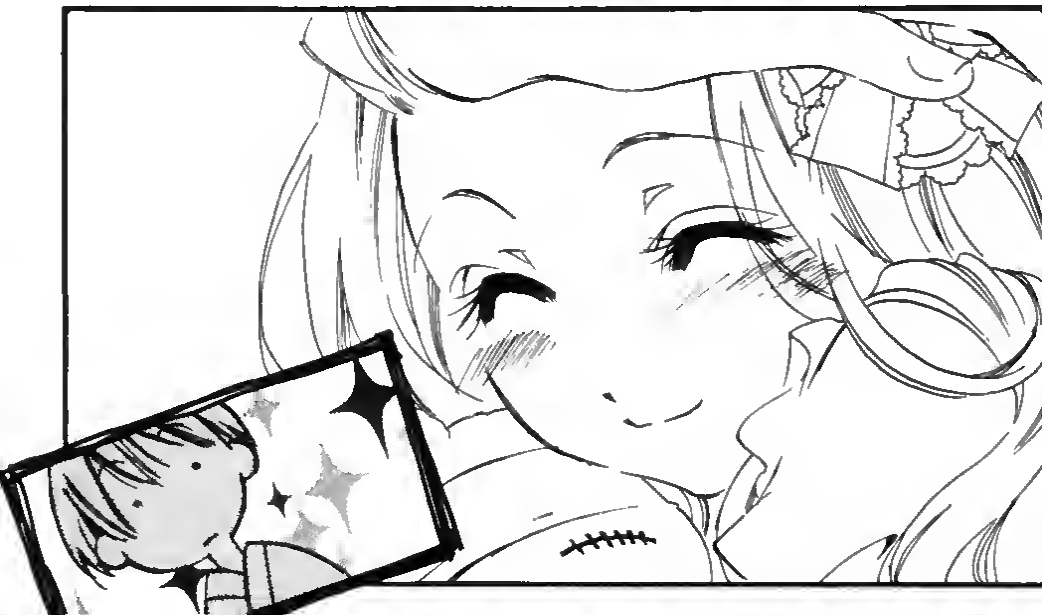
I WANT YOU TO TALK TO ME WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO.
I'M READY FOR ANYTHING, HARUKA.
MA'AM, I'VE BROUGHT BACK YOUR SON.
Kensaku Kubo.
KENSAKU...

EVEN IF A LOVED ONE IS DEAD, YOU CAN STILL APPRECIATE HAVING HIM BY YOUR SIDE.
WELCOME HOME...
KENSAKU, IT'S REALLY YOU!
YES!
HE MAY NOT BE IN THE SAME FORM..
...BUT A MEMENTO CAN STILL BE POWERFUL COMPANY.
IT'S A REFLECTION OF THE DEPTH OF HUMAN EMOTIONS.

...FOR SETTING YOU UP.
I'M SORRY, ICHINOMIYA...
THEY USED ROSALIE-CHAN AS BAIT. WHAT COULD YOU DO?
AND YOU GAVE ME THAT HINT, ANYWAY. NO WORRIES.
IT WAS ONLY A DESPERATE MEASURE
YEAH, BUT I CAN ONLY BLAME MYSELF FOR BEING SLOW ON THE UPTAKE.
SIIIGH.
OH!
HELLO THERE, ROSALIE-CHAN.


NOD
NOD
YOU'LL SAY IT NEXT TIME. WON'T YOU, SWEETHEART?
IT'S OKAY, HASUMI.
ROSALIE, GREET THE NICE MAN!
...

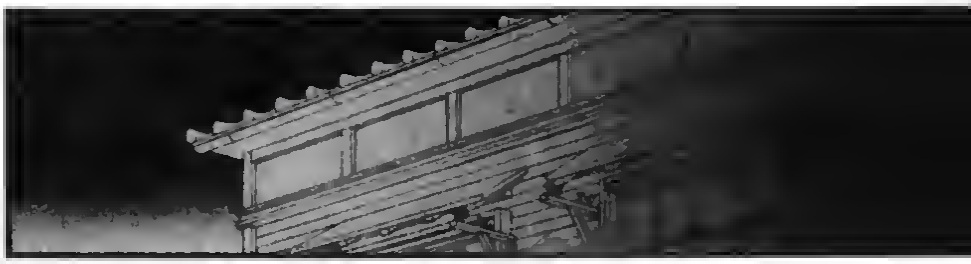
I'M SORRY, ROSALIE.
JUST WAIT A BIT LONGER AND WE'LL HAVE TEA TOGETHER.
RYOUKAN, CAN I HAVE SOME CANDY?



NOTHING AT AAAAALL...
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW PREDICTABLE IT WAS FOR YOU TO SELL ME OUT TO PROTECT HER.
WHY ARE GIVING ME THAT REPULSIVE LOOK?
ROSALIE-CHAN ACTUALLY SMILES WHEN SHE'S WITH YOU, HASUMI.
I DON'T BLAME YOU, HASUMI. FAMILY'S IMPORTANT.
ICHINOMIYA...
...EVEN IF THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO GIVE EVERYTHING ELSE UP.
YOU HAVE TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO YOU...

THE VILLAGERS WHO DEPENDED SO DESPERATELY ON THAT TETSUZAN HISHO LEFT THE MOUNTAIN AND STARTED WORK AT A MODERNIZED FACTORY.
..SO LET ME SUMMARIZE.
BUT THE WORLD HAS NO USE FOR OLD-FASHIONED IRONWORKING METHODS. AND THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN ACCLIMATE TO THE NEW SKILL FOR IT.
THEY'LL TURN THEIR HATE FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD INTO STRONGER LOYALTY TO OUR HIGHER-UPS. THEY'LL NEVER LET US DOWN AGAIN
THEY'LL EVENTUALLY DESPAIR AND GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE TO MAKE MORE FILTHY WEAPONS
RIGHT... AND YES. WE'RE CURRENTLY PREPARING FOR THAT PLAN IN THE MEANTIME. SINCE SAKATA CARRIED OUT HIS DUTIES SO SUCCESSFULLY

ガチャン
AND SUCK IT, YOU OLD GEEZER
YES. TAKE CARE, GENERAL OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD.
CLEAN UP THAT MESS.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.



BED
TIME
STORIES...

TALES AND
ILLUSTRATIONS
OF YOUKAI
TO BE
SEEN AT
NIGHT.
RECORD OF ONE HUNDRED GOBLINS ~ BEDTIME STOR

RECORD OF ONE HUNDRED GOBLINS -- BEDTIME STORIES

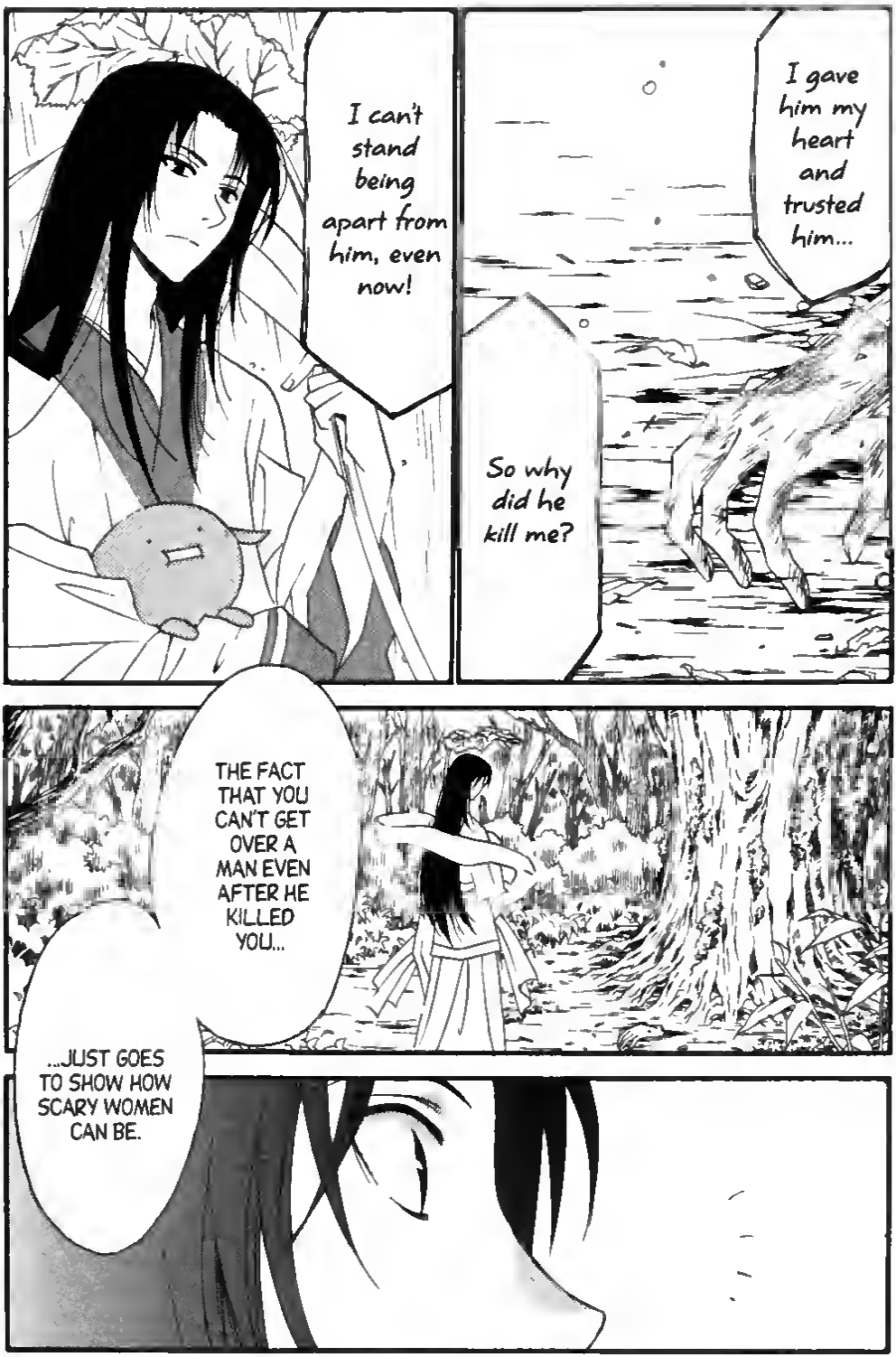
tactics

RECORD OF ONE HUNDRED GOBLINS -- BEDTIME STORIES

KODAMA

I'll never forgive him.
I'll never forgive him.
He betrayed me.
I'll curse him.
I'll make him suffer!

I'll kill--
WE GET IT ALREADY.
LOOK, LADY-- YOU'RE DEAD. NO MATTER HOW BAD YOU WANT IT, IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
きっぱり!
I want him dead.
I want to kill him.
I want to kill him!
WHAT JACKASS COINED THE TERM "SILENT AS THE GRAVE"?
SOB
I lent him all my money until I was deep in debt, and then he cheated on me and hit me ..and yet I still forgave him.
SOB
SOB
I'LL NEVER DO THAT TO YOU, MUU-CHAN.
You're disgusting! Why are you talking to a doll?
YOU'RE A BABBLING CADAVER AND YOU CALL ME DISGUSTING?
YOUR COMPLAINING IS ECHOING ALL OVER THE MOUNTAINSIDE. I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE--JUST SUCK IT UP AND REST IN PEACE!
I loved him...


I can't stand being apart from him, even now!
I gave him my heart and trusted him...
So why did he kill me?
THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T GET OVER A MAN EVEN AFTER HE KILLED YOU...
...JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW SCARY WOMEN CAN BE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS TREE'S OVER 200 YEARS OLD, ISN'T IT?
HMM.
MAYBE IT'S FINALLY YOUR LUCKY DAY.
HUH?
WHY NOT TRY PRAYING TO A GOD?
MAYBE THEN YOU'LL GET YOUR RIDICULOUS WISH GRANTED.

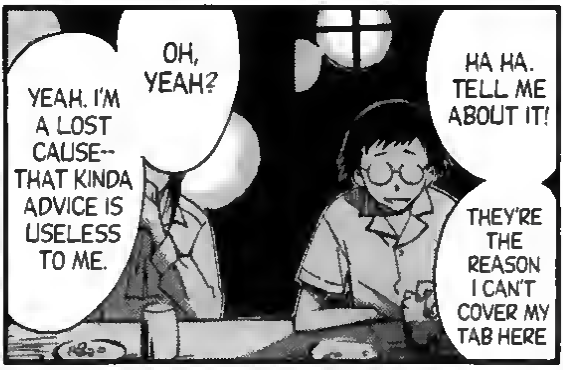
YOU NEVER KNOW, RIGHT?

ANYWAY...

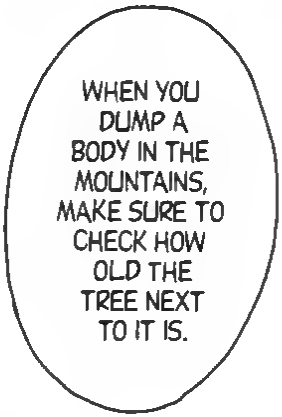
THE STORY'S GOT A LESSON...

WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, DON'T PICK A SORE LOSER.

WHY'D YOU TELL ME THAT STORY, ANYWAY?


OH, YEAH?
YEAH. I'M A LOST CAUSE-- THAT KINDA ADVICE IS USELESS TO ME.
HA HA. TELL ME ABOUT IT!
THEY'RE THE REASON I CAN'T COVER MY TAB HERE

HOW IS THAT A LESSON?
WELL...


WHEN YOU DUMP A BODY IN THE MOUNTAINS, MAKE SURE TO CHECK HOW OLD THE TREE NEXT TO IT IS.

BECAUSE THE STORY HAS TWO LESSONS.

KODAMA

A TREE THAT HAS GROWN FOR AT LEAST 100 YEARS CAN ABSORB SPIRITUAL POWERS.

RECORD OF ONE HUNDRED GOBLINS -- BEDTIME STORIES

TENGU

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS ARE YOU LEARNING AT HASUMI-SENSEI'S, AYAME?
OH, THIS AND THAT. RIGHT NOW WE'RE GOING OVER TENGU, BROTHER.
TENGU.

TENGU.
TENGU?
TENGU...!
AWKWARD!
AH, THE BUDDHIST TRAINING TEMPLE WHERE THEY PAY HOMAGE TO DAKINITEN?
YOU'RE SO SILLY, BROTHER. ANYWAY, THE OTHER DAY WE WENT TO THE TAKAOSAN YAKUOUIN YUUKI TEMPLE NEAR THE CAPITOL-- IT'S FAMOUS FOR TENGU.
UM...DID I OFFEND YOU ALL OR SOMETHING?
NO, SWEETHEART-- IT'S JUST THE THEME OF THIS STORY. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH.
WHAT STORY?

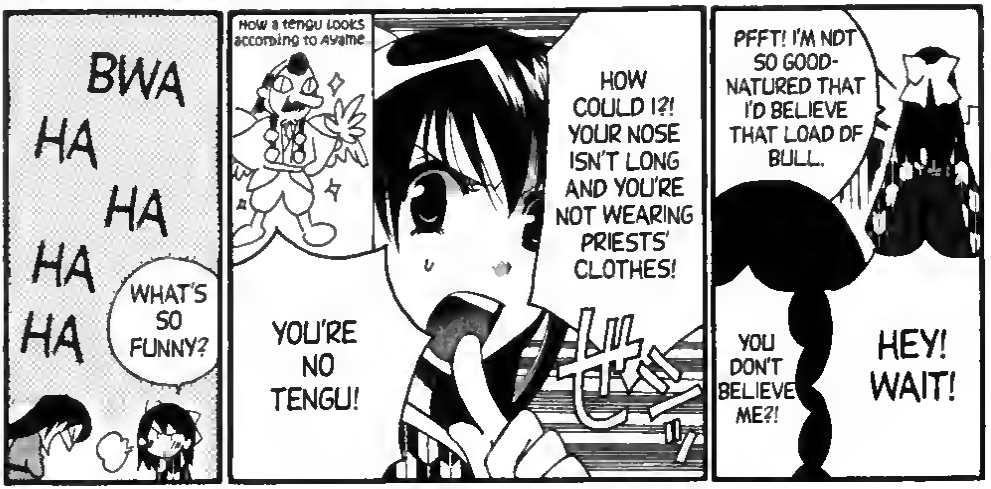
AYAME...I FIND YOUR ROUGHING IT THING SWEET, BUT YOU'RE A DAUGHTER OF THE MINAMOTO FAMILY.
LET'S SEE A BIT MORE POISE AND GRACE, HM?
YOU ALMOST DIED?! WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
THAT'S THE ONE! I DISGUISED MYSELF AS A BUDDHIST PRIEST IN TRAINING AND ROAMED THE FOREST IN HOPES OF COMING ACROSS A TENGU. BUT THEN I BUMPED INTO A BEAR AND HAD TO RUN AWAY. ♡
WHERE'S YOUR SELF-PRESERVATION INSTINCT?!
IN THE END, NO TENGU FOR ME.
OH... FINE, BROTHER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT CHASING DOWN THE TENGU--AN INEVITABLE MEETING IS IN YOUR BLOOD.
HE KNOWS THAT AS WELL AS I DO.

HUH MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT...
WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE EVERYONE I KNOW BELIEVES IN TENGU AMONG US?
I HAVE TO STOP BY THE BOOKSTORE; COULD YOU LET ME OFF HERE, BROTHER?
SURE. SAY HI TO HASUMI-SENSEI FOR ME.
FOUND IT!
NOW, THEN! I HAVE TO HURRY TO THE MAKA MYSTERIOUS RESEARCH SOCIETY!
KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA'S "MANUAL TO DISCIPLINING YOUR FIRST TENGU"! SQUEE!
FUNNY HOW IT WAS IN THE BACK DESPITE BEING A NEW RELEASE.

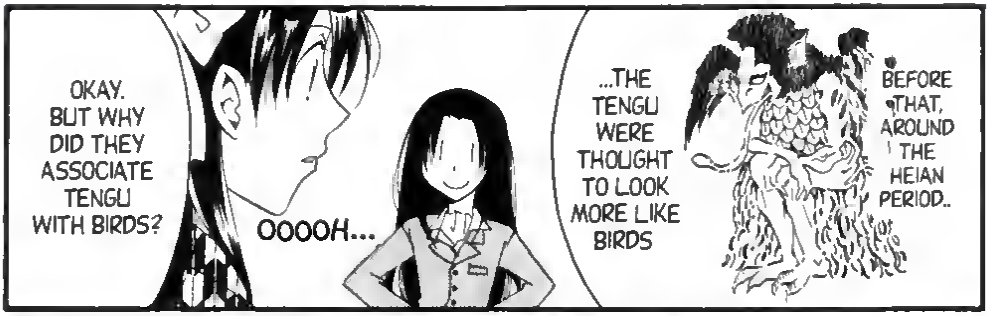
MU...
MMM!
MU...
I WISH MY PROBLEM WERE AS SIMPLE AS A PLAGUE!
ARE YOU SICK...?
MMMUUUU-
YOU SOUND A LITTLE CHOKED UP--
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
MM!
ARE YOU HURT?
MUMU!
MY JOYOUS BUNDLE OF MAGNIFICENCE IS MISSING!
IT'S MUU-CHAN!

OH, SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE! GOOD LUCK WITH THAT. ♡
.....
Gasp!
ACTUALLY...I'M EXPECTED ELSEWHERE, SO--
DIDN'T I MEET YOU BEFORE? ANYWAY, WHO CARES
DID YOU JUST SAY YOU'LL HELP ME SEARCH FOR MUU-CHAN NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES? MUCH OBLIGED!
AS A MEMBER OF THE MINAMOTO FAMILY, I HAVE TO PERFORM GOOD DEEDS AND UPHOLD OUR PROUD NAME!
I... YEAH. I'LL HELP YOU, SIR.

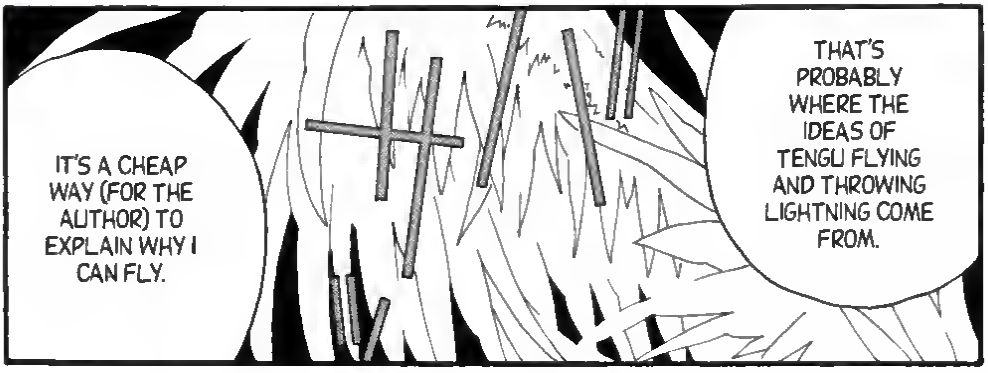
I SHOULD'VE FLOWN—IT WOULD'VE BEEN FASTER.
FLOWN?
NOPE. I CAME HERE FROM SUGINO MOUNTAIN.
SO YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT FROM THE CITY?
I'M A TENGU. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.
omigod!
Yay!
Eeek!
NO ONE'S EVER BELIEVED ME SO FAST! I LIKE YOUR STYLE, GIRL-WITH-BOW!
REALLY? HOW COOL! I CAN'T BELIEVE RAN INTO A TENGU IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN!
SO TENGU HANG OUT IN PLACES OTHER THAN THEIR SACRED MOUNTAINS, HUH?!


BWA HA HA HA HA
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
How a tengu looks according to Ayame
YOU'RE NO TENGU!
HOW COULD I?! YOUR NOSE ISN'T LONG AND YOU'RE NOT WEARING PRIESTS' CLOTHES!
PFFT! I'M NOT SO GOOD-NATURED THAT I'D BELIEVE THAT LOAD OF BULL.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?!
HEY! WAIT!

=
+
TENGU WEARING PRIESTS' CLOTHES IS A NEW MYTH, GIRLIE.
IT COMES FROM AN OVERLAP OF PEOPLE ASSOCIATING MOUNTAIN TENGU WITH PRIESTS WHO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS TO TRAIN.
AS FOR THE LONG NOSE, IT WAS ADAPTED FROM THE IDEA THAT CONCEITED PRIESTS GROW LONG NOSES--HENCE, THAT IMAGE OF "TENGU."


OKAY. BUT WHY DID THEY ASSOCIATE TENGU WITH BIRDS?
OOOOH...
...THE TENGU WERE THOUGHT TO LOOK MORE LIKE BIRDS
BEFORE THAT, AROUND THE HEIAN PERIOD..

SUCH IS WHY METEORS AND COMETS CAME TO BE MISTAKEN FOR TENGU.
"IN THE SOUTHEAST DIRECTION, A LARGE STAR FLOWS FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST. THERE IS A NOISE, ONE LIKE THUNDER. PEOPLE SAY 'IT IS THE SOUND OF A METEOR.' OTHERS SAY 'IT IS THE SOUND OF THUNDER STRIKING THE EARTH.' HERE A PRIEST SAID 'IT IS NO METEOR. IT IS THE FOX OF THE SKY. ITS HOWL IS LIKE THAT OF THUNDER.'"
THE TITLE OF "TENGU" FIRST APPEARED IN THE CHRONICLES OF JAPAN.


IT'S A CHEAP WAY (FOR THE AUTHOR) TO EXPLAIN WHY I CAN FLY.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE THE IDEAS OF TENGU FLYING AND THROWING LIGHTNING COME FROM.

WE'RE BONED.
THIS IS WHY WE YOUKAI ARE DISAPPEARING FROM THE PUBLIC'S COLLECTIVE HEART!
ARGH! YOU CAN'T SEE THESE, EITHER?!
UM... FLY WITH WHAT?
BUT FORGET THE TENGU LESSON! WE HAVE TO FIND MUU-CHAN!
GYAAAAAAH!
Y-YES, SIR.
IF YOU SPOT MUU-CHAN FIRST, SCREAM LIKE A CRAZY PERSON TO LET ME KNOW!
COME ONE, COME ALL! WE'VE GOT SOME DELICIOUS TENGU YOUKAN HERE!
LIKE YOUR ADDRESS, AND WHAT YOUR MOM LOOKS LIKE--
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GIVE ME ALL YOUR CONTACT INFO!

IT'S JUST NORMAL YOUKAN
BEAN JELLY WROUGHT BY THE VERY HAND OF A CERTIFIABLE TENGU!
AND BEING SOLD BY A GENUINE TENGU-CHAN TO BOOT!
tengu youkan
HUH?
SIGH...
HUH. SO IS PRETENDING TO BE A TENGU SOME NEW FAD?
Weird.
MUUU-CHaaaan!
はは
はは

A LEGENDARY TENGU WHOSE SEAL WAS BROKEN IS UNDENIABLY SOMEWHERE HERE IN JAPAN.
I WANT TO HUNT DOWN THAT DEMON-EATING TENGU AS SOON AS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE.
THIS IS A STORY OF DAYS GONE PAST.

RECORD
OF ONE
HUNDRED
GOBLINS
--
BEDTIME
STORIES

Hello, everybody!
Thank you so much
for buying Volume 8
of tactics!

Good work,
Higashiyama-san and
assistants. I mean it...
thank you.

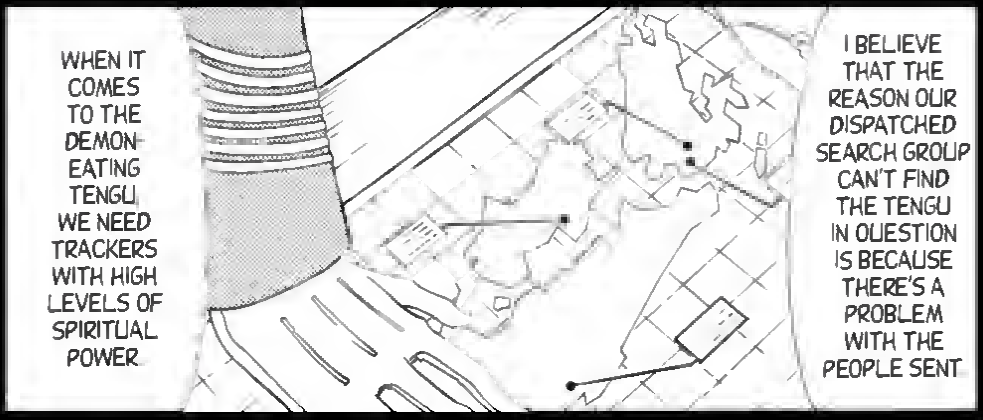
Lately, I've absolutely
lost my ability
to draw male
characters.
But I guess
if nobody necessarily
asks me to
draw male
characters, I can
just draw them
however I like.

Oh, and also,
I've discovered
that I seem to
be better at
drawing short
stories.
...Sorry.

I hope to see you in Volume 9!
And in the main story!
Sakura Kinoshita

RECORD OF ONE HUNDRED GOBLINS -- BEDTIME STORIES

YAMABIKO


WHEN IT COMES TO THE DEMON-EATING TENGU, WE NEED TRACKERS WITH HIGH LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL POWER.
I BELIEVE THAT THE REASON OUR DISPATCHED SEARCH GROUP CAN'T FIND THE TENGU IN QUESTION IS BECAUSE THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE PEOPLE SENT

IT'S NOT ONLY **OUR** WISH THAT THIS YOUKAI BE SEIZED, BUT THE WISH OF THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL.
PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR SEARCH FOR THIS TENGU, ADMIRAL RAIKOU MINAMOTO.

AS YOU WISH, GENERAL OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD
HMPH.

AND THAT'S HOW MY SWORD, THE DOUJIKIRI YASUTSUNA, BECAME A GOVERNMENT DOG.
THAT GEEZER FROM THE IMPERIAL GUARD WANTS TO KICK ME OUT OF THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT LOOKING BAD AND HE WANTS TO USE THE YASUTSUNA AS A SHIELD TO KEEP ME FROM ACTING OUT.
UM HOW DO YOU FIGURE?
BECAUSE THAT WAS THE OLD MAN'S PLAN
USUALLY, I WOULDN'T LET THE YASUTSUNA OUT OF MY HANDS, BUT I CAN'T DISOBEY MY SUPERIORS.
HE REALLY IS A SLY ONE, THAT GENERAL.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SAKATA?
.....

HEH.
...I'M NOT COMFORTABLE THINKING THAT WE HAVE COLLEAGUES WORKING AGAINST US
I'M HAPPY TO BE WITH YOU IN THE MILITARY SECTOR. I ALWAYS ASPIRED TO JOIN MASTER RAIKOU BUT...
IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN BOTH THE IMPERIAL GUARD AND OTHER DIVISIONS WHO AREN'T HAPPY WITH MY TAKING OFFICE AS AN ADMIRAL.
THAT'S WHY IT'S RIDICULED BY OTHER DIVISIONS AS AN "ELITE GUARD."
THE IMPERIAL GUARD WAS ESTABLISHED AS A DIVISION UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. ITS MEMBERS ARE SELECTED WITH CARE.
WHY? I'M NOT ANGRY.
I FEEL RAGE POIGNANTLY, SIR
HUH?
IT'S A JOKE, REALLY.
HELLO! THERE! ♡
BUT THE OFFICE DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. THE POSITION OF "IMPERIAL GUARD ADMIRAL" IS REALLY ONLY ANOTHER TITLE FOR "RAIKOU MINAMOTO."

tactics 8

I'M JUST...
...IM-PATIENT, I GUESS.
BEING PUT TO USE?
THE ONLY THING THAT ACTUALLY PISSES ME OFF IS THAT MY NEW TITLE AND POSITION AREN'T BEING PUT TO USE.
I WANT TO GO UP AGAINST A YOUKAI MORE SUITED TO MY DOUJIKIRI.
WE SHOULDN'T BE STROLLING THE MOUNTAINS AND DRAGGING OUR FEET.
I WANT TO GET MY HANDS DIRTY.
AND I SWEAR I'LL REMAIN FAITH-FULLY BY YOUR SIDE!
I UNDER-STAND, SIR!

Master raikou?!
WH-WHY, IT'S SUPERB, OF COURSE!
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY MOTHER TOLD ME TO SING WHEN I'M FRUSTRATED. HOW DO YOU LIKE MY LITTLE DITTY?
You wrote that your-self?!
BEHEAD THEM! BEHEAD THEM!! BEHEAD THEM!!!
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I'LL--
CAN YOU HEAR THE CRIES OF THE COMMONERS? A SMILE IN THE DARK, A WHISPERED CURSE.
?!
SING WITH ME, SAKATA.
ER, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD--
ON THE COUNT OF THREE. ONE, TWO...
WE OF THE MAGIC REGIMENT ARE RUNNING WILD!
RUNNING WILD!
!

HOO BOY.
WE'VE GOT A YAMABIKO ON OUR HANDS.
HEEEEEEEY!
...HUH?
HELLO! HELLO!
YOOHOOOOO!
THAT'S STRANGE. IF IT'S A YAMABIKO, WHY WON'T HE ECHO YOUR CALLS?
.....
I GET IT.
SING! SING!! SING!!!
SING! SING!! SING!!!
C-CAN I TRY TOO?!
THE YAMABIKO WILL ONLY RETURN MY SINGING.
NO.

...AM I THAT SCARY?
DON'T RANDOMLY STAND BEHIND PEOPLE! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
EEEK!
FORGET THE YAMABIKO
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I AM.
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES YOU'LL STOP RILING UP THE YAMABIKO.
"RILING"?
IT'S JUST A YAMABIKO A PHENOMENON OF THE ECHO. WEIRDO.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE THIS, LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING.
ホイ
HUH?

THE YAMABIKO HERE IS GOD OF THE MOUNTAIN.
HE SEEMS TO LIKE YOUR SINGING. IF YOU KEEP THAT UP, HE'LL STEAL YOU AWAY TO KEEP YOU BY HIS SIDE.
YOU'LL BE REDUCED TO NOTHING MORE THAN A SKULL LIKE THAT ONE.

GYAAAAAH!

!
ALSO, I'M TRYING TO SLEEP, AND YOU'RE LOUD.

MASTER RAIKOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU?
I CAN STILL SENSE SOMETHING, EVEN WHEN YOU TRY TO COVER IT UP...
THAT DEMONIC POWER ISN'T NORMAL!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S NOT NORMAL.
IS THAT ANY WAY TO THANK ME FOR WARNING YOU?

I KNEW IT. HUMANS ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
SIR...
DON'T INTER-FERE, SAKATA.
I WANT THIS TENGU ALL TO MYSELF.
TCH.
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
TAKE UP THE GAUNTLET OR YOU'LL END UP DEAD

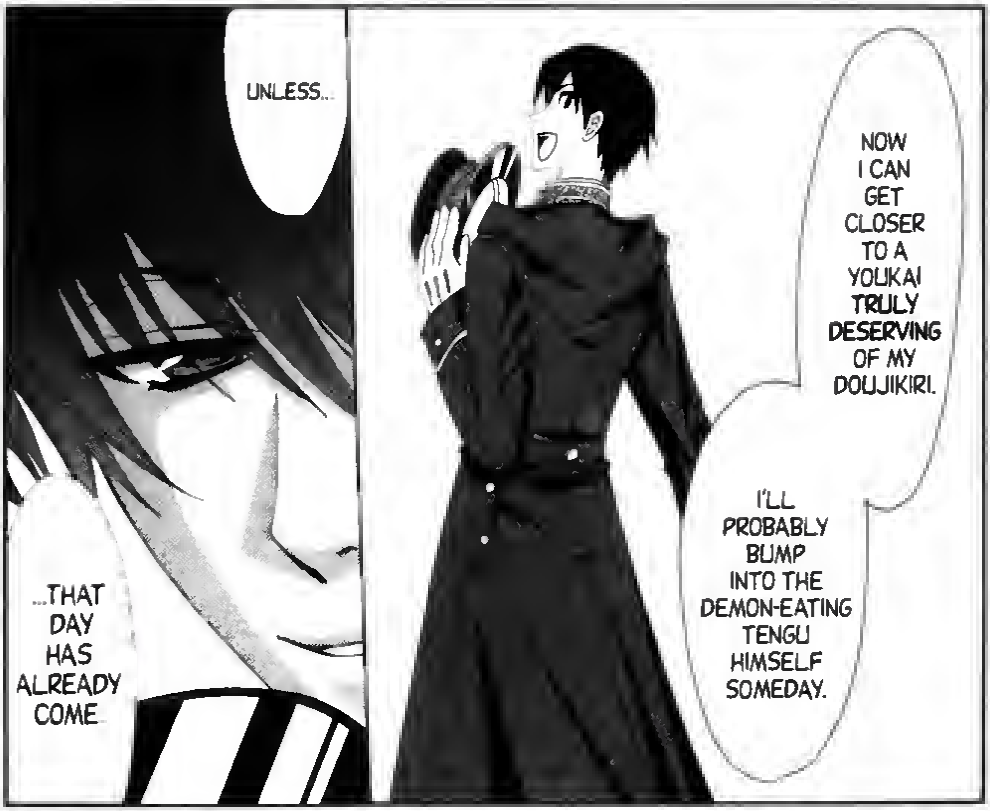
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO FIGHT.
EXCUSES! YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE GUTS!
TAP
WHAT A SHAME. YOU WOULD'VE BEEN THE PERFECT GAME FOR MY YASUTSUNA.
GRIP
AT ANY RATE...

IT'S A BIGGER SHAME THAT THIS SWORD IS ALL I HAVE ON ME.
!
I'M THE ANGRY ONE HERE, YOU STUPID HUMAN!
RIP
YOU MISER-ABLE--!

MASTER RAIKOU!
THAT MAN IS A TENGU!
INGRATES
STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME
WHOA
ARE YOU THE...?!

I'M LEAVING.
...H-HE GOT AWAY.

HEY, SAKATA...
MAYBE THAT OLD FART FROM THE IMPERIAL GUARD DOESN'T NEED MY FOOT IN HIS ASS.
HUH?


UNLESS...
...THAT DAY HAS ALREADY COME
NOW I CAN GET CLOSER TO A YOUKAI TRULY DESERVING OF MY DOUJIKIRI.
I'LL PROBABLY BUMP INTO THE DEMON-EATING TENGU HIMSELF SOMEDAY.

HE IMMEDIATELY FORGOT THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY.

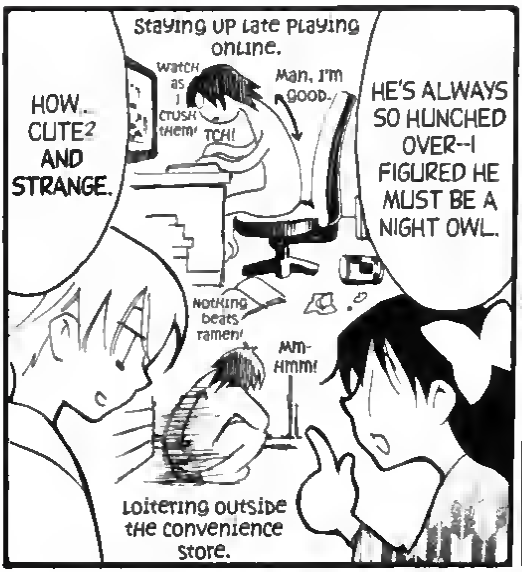
MEANWHILE, THE DEMON-EATING TENGU...

RECORD OF ONE HUNDRED GOBLINS -- BEDTIME STORIES

NEKOMATA

ICHI-NOMIYA-SENSEI!
BEAUTIFUL MORNING HMM?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE AYAME-CHAN!
ガラッ
YOU'RE UNUSUALLY SPIRITED FOR SUCH AN EARLY HOUR
AYAME-CHAN?
キョロ
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
キョロ

tactics 8


Staying up late playing online.
watch as I crush them!
TCH!
Man, I'm good.
HOW... CUTE? AND STRANGE.
HE'S ALWAYS SO HUNCHED OVER--I FIGURED HE MUST BE A NIGHT OWL.
Nothing beats ramen!
Mm-Hmm!
Loitering outside the convenience store.

A PUDDY tat!

URM.. HRGL BRGL..
I'D RATHER YOU LAUGH THAN HOLD IT IN LIKE THAT
!?
TOTALLY SERIOUS
Meow!
WHAT CAN I DO TO TURN THIS CAT INTO A NEKOMATA?
TWEET
NEKOMATA AREN'T CREATURES WROUGHT BY HUMAN HANDS.
WELL..
But it's not funny!
You said I could
EEEE!
HA HA HA!
SOMETIMES, THEY CAN TAKE ON HUMAN FEMALE FORMS.
THEY'RE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE ANCIENT CATS WHO LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO BECOME DEMONIZED.
THEIR TAILS SPLIT INTO TWO AND THEY COME TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN SPEECH
THERE ARE DESCRIPTIONS OF THEM GROWING HORNS AND WIDE MOUTHS

WAIT! NEKOMATAKO-CHAN!
WHAT A PAINFULLY OBVIOUS NAME.
AH!
THEN...I GUESS I SHOULD FEED HER WELL ENOUGH FOR HER TO GROW ANCIENT?
OH... OKAY.
MEOW!
YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT
HEY SENSEI? DO YOU THINK SHE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A NEKOMATA?
WELL... SHE HAD A PRETTY LONG TAIL.
WHERE DID SHE GO?
LONG AGO PEOPLE WOULD PREFER TO OWN SHORT-TAILED CATS AS A PRECAUTION AGAINST THEIR PETS TURNING INTO NEKOMATA.
EXACTLY.
AND THAT MEANS IT'S MORE LIKELY TO SPLIT IN TWO, RIGHT?
THEY'RE A RARE STORYBOOK EXAMPLE OF GOOD-NATURED YOUKAI
SINCE A NEKOMATA TYPICALLY RETURNS TO THE HOME HE WAS RAISED IN, THERE ARE PLENTY OF LEGENDS OF THEM COMING BACK TO REPAY THEIR OWNERS' KINDNESS.

GOOD! NOW LET'S SING IT AGAIN! OH, HAKAMA! HAKAMA! DO THIS STYLISH DANCE! HAKAMA! HAKAMA!
HUH? WHAT'S THAT STRANGE SONG?
BUT THEY ALSO HAVE A PLAYFUL NATURE, AND WILL STAND ON THEIR HIND LEGS TO DO JIGS AND STUFF
I'D LOVE TO SEE IT SOMEDAY!
MOUNT FUJI FLOATS IN THE MISO SOUP. THIS IS JAPAN! FLUTTERING PLEATS, OH MY HAKAMA AND ITS SLANTS...
YES, YES! YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS!
ONE, TWO! ONE, TWO!
THAT'S IT! STAY IN RHYTHM!
NOW, PUT OUT YOUR RIGHT FOOT!!
RUN! IT'S THE HAKAMA FREAK!
KYAAAH!
OH
DID YOU SEE THAT CAT'S TAIL?! IT WAS SPLIT IN TWO I SWEAR!
DOUBLE HAKAMA!

RECORD OF ONE HUNDRED GOBLINS -- BEDTIME STORIES

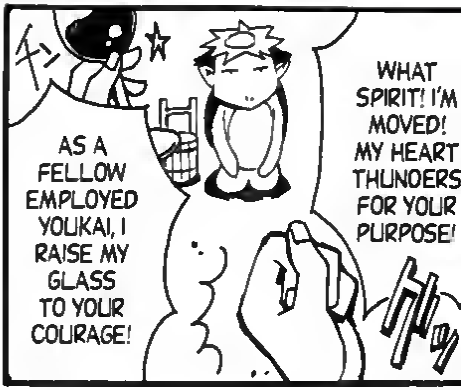
KAPPA

.....
REALLY.
I HOPE HE'S KIDDING.
I FIGURED I SHOULD GET MYSELF INVOLVED IN SOCIETY, Y'KNOW?
YEAAAH...I WANNA BE MORE'N A BOTTOM-OF-THE-BARREL YOUKAI.
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, COMRADE KAPPA...
...IS THAT YOU'VE COME TO ME BECAUSE YOU WANT A JOB IN THE CITY.

First debuted in Chapter 8 of Volume 3.

THAT IS AWESOME!
Aaargh!
WHYYYY?!

YOU JUST RELAX AND WE'LL FIND YOU THE PERFECT POSITION!
I'LL FIND YOU WORK-- DON'T YOU WORRY!


AS A FELLOW EMPLOYED YOUKAI, I RAISE MY GLASS TO YOUR COURAGE!
WHAT SPIRIT! I'M MOVED! MY HEART THUNDERS FOR YOUR PURPOSE!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO STEP INTO THIS MESS!
GRIT
AW, SHUCKS... THANK Y' KINDLY.
LET'S GO, HARUKA! WE NEED TO HELP YOUR FELLOW YOUKAI FINALLY LEAVE THE NEST!

NOW, LISTEN. THE BASIC FOUNDATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE...
...IS THAT WHOEVER YOU'RE SERVING IS NOW YOUR GOD.
THEY WON'T ALWAYS BE KIND DEITIES, BUT THINK OF THEM AS BAGS OF MONEY AND YOUR STRESS WILL FADE.
NO! NOT LIKE THAT!
You have to watch your metaphors with them.
I worship you my Lord!
Please grant me yummy food
Dear God, Please make me rich
I KNOW! HARUKA-CHAN!
HMM... THAT'S ONLY GONNA SCARE AWAY THE CUSTOMERS.
CAN YOU PLEASE ACT THE PART OF A CUSTOMER UNTIL THAT KAPPA GETS HIS GROOVE?
DO I Have to?
GAWRSH. THE CUSTOMER'S A TENGU?
TOO BAD IT AIN'T A LADY, THOUGH.

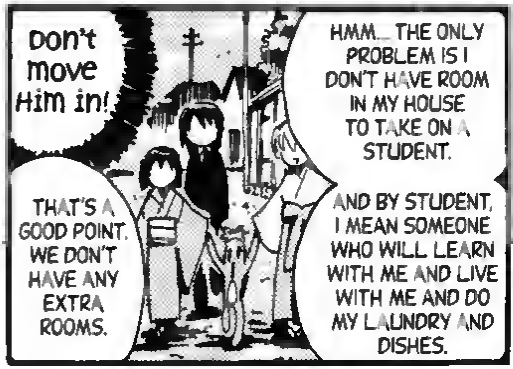
tactics 8

WELCOME, SIR!
decided to play along.
heh heh
KAPPA-CHAN--DON'T FORGET TO SMILE!
heh heh heh
DON'T WAIT FOR HIM TO ASK FOR WATER.
AND GIVE HIM THE MENU ASAP!
MENU
HYUK!
HYUK
HYUK
HYUK
WE'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR SEAT NOW.
COME ON, HARUKA! GET INTO YOUR ROLE!

S-SNAP OUT OF IT! CALM DOWN!
WHAT'S WRONG, KAPPA-CHAN?!
KAPPA HAND
Haruka Turned to Stone
What the--?!
Mackerel Jam
papa meal
naughty girl
overhead kick
double serving
UZEM
ぱぴゃみ
YEAH.
MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT JOB FOR YOU, KAPPA.
YOU JUST REALIZED THAT?!
AAH! HARUKA, BE STRONG
CRAP...THE TABLE AND FLOOR ARE SOAKED.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT...I FELT SO DEHYDRATED, I COULDN'T HELP IT.
THE MANAGER'S GONNA BE PISSED
Like a dried-up raisin.

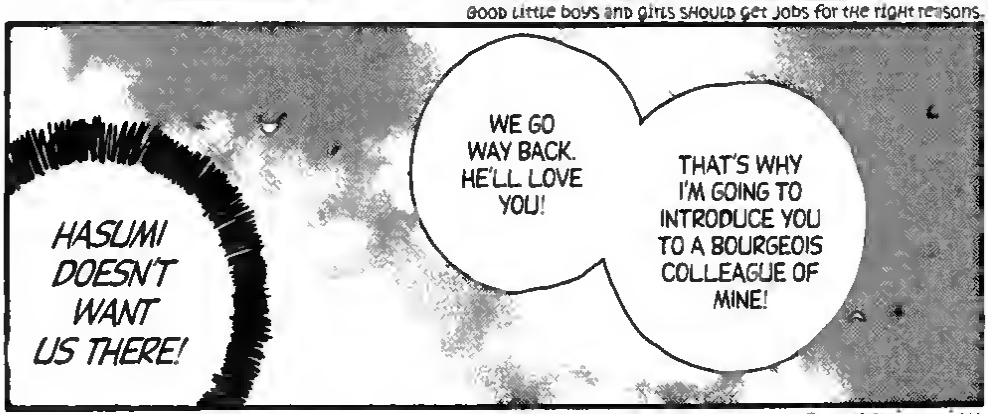
tactics 8

MWA HA HA HA HA HA!
THE EXISTENCE KNOWN AS "WRITER"!
THE EPITOME OF CAREERS...
THERE IS A JOB WHERE YOU CAN LIVE LIKE A HERMIT AND NO ONE WILL CARE.
YOU CAN SLEEP AS LATE AS YOU WANT AND NEVER PUT ON REAL PANTS.
heh...
I'M OKAY WITH NOT HAVING TO SEE PEOPLE AND CHANGE MY CLOTHES.
I HEARD ABOUT "RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC." IS THAT YUMMY?


Don't move Him in!
THAT'S A GOOD POINT. WE DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA ROOMS.
HMM... THE ONLY PROBLEM IS I DON'T HAVE ROOM IN MY HOUSE TO TAKE ON A STUDENT.
AND BY STUDENT, I MEAN SOMEONE WHO WILL LEARN WITH ME AND LIVE WITH ME AND DO MY LAUNDRY AND DISHES.

Y' THINK? I DON'T MIND STUDYIN'.
MAYBE HE'LL BE A BIG HIT!♡
GOOD POINT! KAPPA-CHAN MUST HAVE SOME REALLY WILD IDEAS.
Novelists are Rolling in their graves.

Good little boys and girls should get jobs for the right reasons.


HASUMI DOESN'T WANT US THERE!
WE GO WAY BACK. HE'LL LOVE YOU!
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A BOURGEOIS COLLEAGUE OF MINE!

BOURGEOIS = RICH

IF YOU'RE HERE TO GREET US, THEN IS HASUMI OUT RIGHT NOW?
OH! HELLO, ROSALIE-CHAN.
THAT'S A LITTLE DISGUSTING, ROSALIE-CHAN.
A HASUMI PUPPET?
BITTER SMILE
heh heh
never come here again, ichi-nomiya!
OH... MY...
ドキッ

AW. TOO BAD.
SHAKE
SHAKE
HE'S TAKING A STAND!
THE PUPPET!
HEY, ROSALIE-CHAN. CAN WE LEAVE THIS KAPPA WITH YOU GUYS?
I'LL COURT THIS LOVELY LADY AND MAYBE MARRY HER SOMEDAY!
BUT...
IT'S NO USE.. THERE'S NO WORK FOR US KAPPA, AFTER ALL.
IT'S OKAY-- I STILL FOUND A WAY TO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE HUMANS!
AW. TOO BAD.
SHAKE
SHAKE
THE HASUMI HOUSEHOLD REJECTED IT ALL!
OH. WOULD YOU LIKE TO DATE THIS HANDSOME KAPPA, ROSALIE-CHAN?

SIIIIIGH...
1
2
3
4
Hah
WHAT A HEARTBREAKER. I'M GOIN' BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN.
HIS WILL IS THIN LIKE WHEAT!
I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T HELP YOU.
HARUKA, WOULD YOU ESCORT HIM BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN?
I'M NOT A GO-FER!
And what was wrong with those four panels above?
I PREFER THE MOUNTAINS.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING BACK HOME, MISTER DEMON EATER?

CALL FOR ME.
OTHERWISE,
MISFORTUNE
WILL
BEFALL YOU.

RECORD OF ONE HUDRED GOBLINS -- BEDTIME STORIES

OTOROSHI

tactics 8
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU OUT THERE, WE'VE MADE IT TO VOLUME 8! THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ♥
IN THIS VOLUME THERE ARE CHAPTERS THAT KINOSHITA-SAN WROTE BY HERSELF, AND SOME THAT I DID BY MYSELF. I HOPE YOU CAN ENJOY THEM ALL.
WELL, BEST REGARDS FROM HERE ON OUT!
BY kazuko Higashiyama

THE ARTIST DOUSAI ITOU IS A PRODIGY-- HE'S KNOWN FOR HIS EXCELLENT DRAWINGS ON EVERY SUBJECT MATTER.
BUT HE'S ESPECIALLY RENOWNED FOR HIS PORTRAITS OF YOUKAI AND MONSTERS.
.....
I'VE BEEN A FAN OF HIS FOR A WHILE. MISS REIKO KNOWS HIM, SO SHE INTRODUCED US.
HE'S HELPING ME OUT WITH MY FOLKLORE STUDIES.
HIS FAMILY MANAGES A FAMOUS DEPARTMENT STORE, SO HE COMES IN CONTACT WITH A LOT OF COUNTRY FOLK. THAT MAKES INFORMATION GATHERING A LOT MORE EFFICIENT... HE'S BEEN A REAL PAL.
HMPH.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

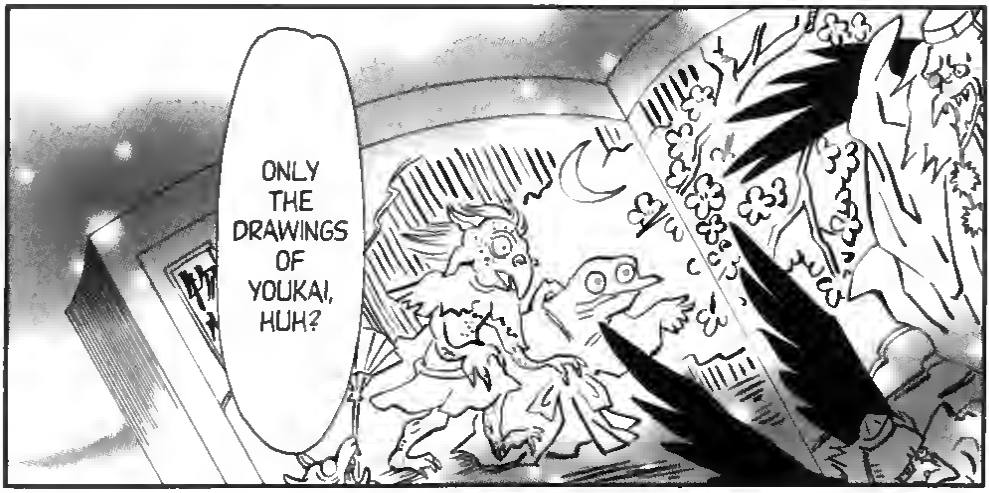
ARE YOU STILL MAD ABOUT ME DRAGGING YOU HERE?
YOU OL' SOURPUSS.
Cafe sabouru
YOU'RE ANNOYING.
NO, NO. THANK YOU!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY.
MISTER KANTA ROU!
HE SHOULD BE HERE...
OVER HERE!
HARUKA IS MY PERSONAL... ER, ASSISTANT.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TWO. HARUKA, THIS IS THE ARTIST, MISTER ITOU.

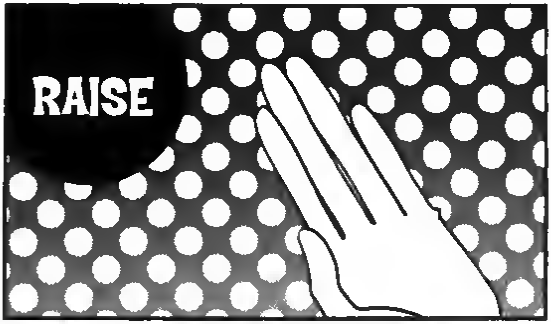
I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, MISTER HARUKA...
A PLEASURE MEETING YOU.
MY NAME IS DOUSAI ITOU.
I DO HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.
SO HE DREW THESE PICTURES?
YES. NOW PLEASE DON'T OFFEND THE WORLD-FAMOUS ARTIST.
UM, YES?
YOU REALLY DREW THESE?
?
I don't under-stand HU-mans.

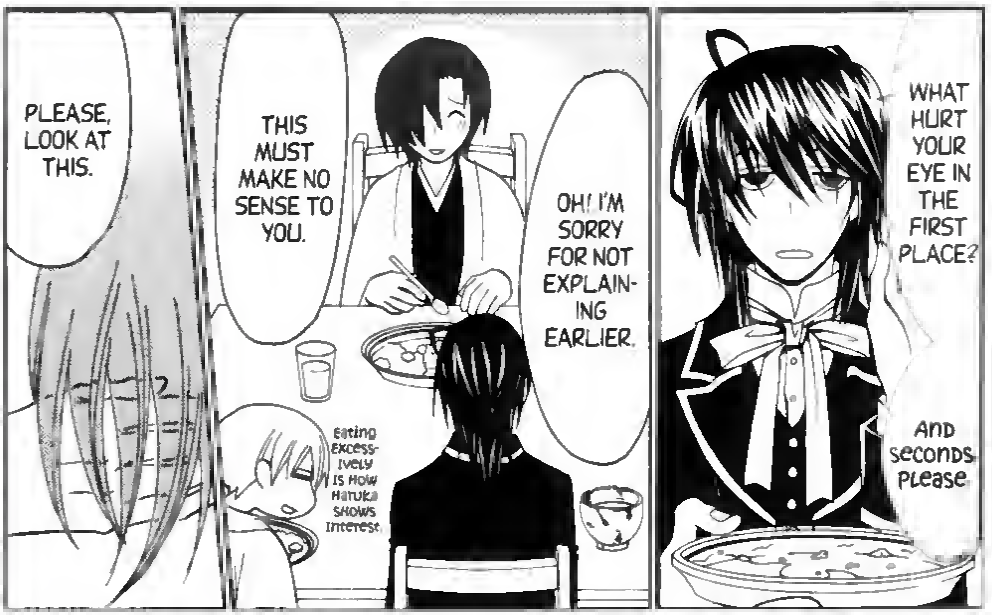
YOU CAN'T DRAW ANYMORE?
WELL... EVERY TIME I TRY, MY RIGHT EYE STARTS TO HURT.
BUT ISN'T THAT EYE ALREADY...?
OH, IT'S NOT THE FAULT OF MY OLD INJURY. IT'S THIS DREAM I KEEP HAVING.
DREAM?
I'VE BEEN HAVING IT EVERY NIGHT LATELY.
A NIGHTMARE, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY.

tactics 8

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE DREAM, BUT WHEN I WAKE UP, ALL THAT LINGERS IS THE FEAR.
I'M DRENCHED IN SWEAT AND DON'T FEEL THE LEAST BIT RESTED.
MY RIGHT EYE ALSO HURTS
CONSIDERING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF MY PAINTINGS, I THINK SOMETHING'S TRYING TO HINDER ME SOMEHOW.
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.
THE STRANGE THING IS, MY YOUKAI PAINTINGS ARE THE ONLY THINGS I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T DO ANYMORE.
I CAN'T EVEN MAKE A ROUGH SKETCH OR DOODLE.
I CAN DRAW OTHER SUBJECTS, BUT MY RIGHT EYE ACHES THE MOMENT I TOUCH ON YOUKAI
SINCE YOUKAI ARE MY FAVORITE SUBJECT, THIS IS A MOST PAINFUL PROBLEM.
...I SEE.


ONLY THE DRAWINGS OF YOUKAI, HUH?


RAISE

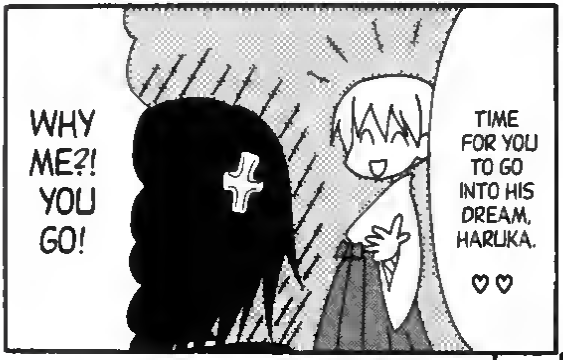

PLEASE, LOOK AT THIS.
THIS MUST MAKE NO SENSE TO YOU.
OH! I'M SORRY FOR NOT EXPLAINING EARLIER.
Eating excessively is how Hatuki shows interest.
WHAT HURT YOUR EYE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
And seconds please.

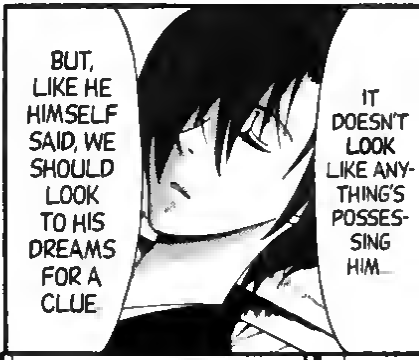
IT'S A FRIGHTFUL SIGHT...
...SO I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.
I WAS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT THAT LEFT THE RIGHT HALF OF MY FACE TERRIBLY SCARRED.
MY RIGHT EYE IS ALMOST COMPLETELY BLIND.
YOU'RE ONLY THE SECOND PERSON...
...WHO'S SEEN THIS AND NOT REACTED.
RIGHT, MISTER KANTA-ROU?
.....
HE'S GIVING ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.

I JUST COULDN'T FEEL ANYTHING IMMEDIATELY BY SEEING IT.
I'VE SEEN THINGS WAY MORE SHOCKING THAN HIS EYE. IT'S NOT THAT I WAS BEING NICE...
LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS.
IT'S A GOOD THING ITOU HAS HIS OWN HOUSE AND STUDIO.
PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE!
NOW, THEN!

tactics 8

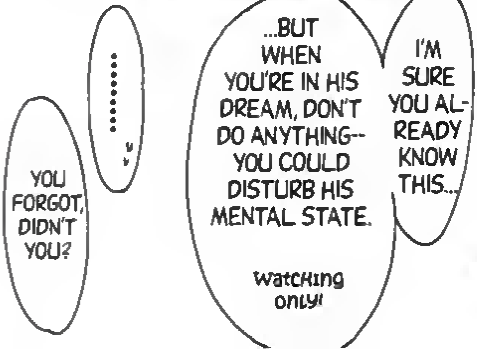
WE CAN'T GO USING OUR MAGIC IN A PUBLIC CAFE LIKE THAT.


WHY ME?! YOU GO!
TIME FOR YOU TO GO INTO HIS DREAM, HARUKA. ♡♡


BUT, LIKE HE HIMSELF SAID, WE SHOULD LOOK TO HIS DREAMS FOR A CLUE.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY-THING'S POSSES-SING HIM...

UGH! FINE.
ARE YOU PROTEST-ING MY COMMAND?

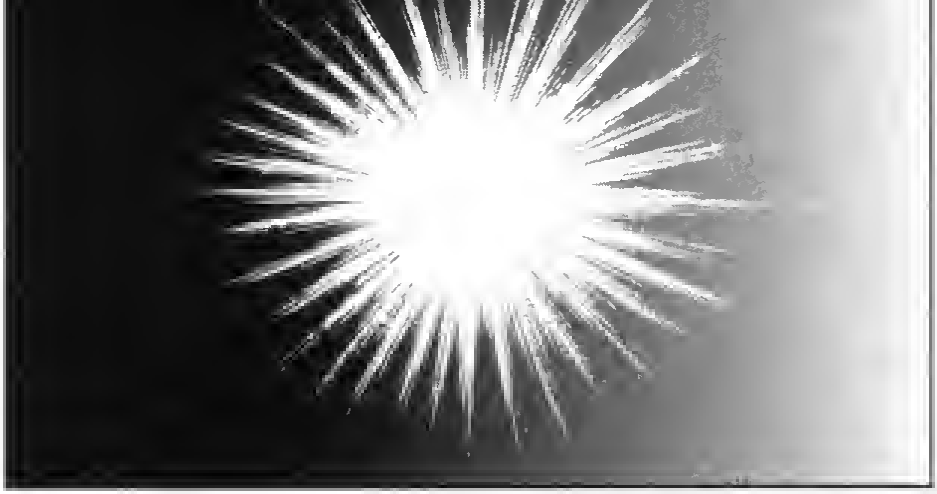
MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING FOR BOTH OF YOU.
IF I WENT, HE'D SEE MY TRUE COLORS.


.....
YOU FORGOT, DIDN'T YOU?
...BUT WHEN YOU'RE IN HIS DREAM, DON'T DO ANYTHING-- YOU COULD DISTURB HIS MENTAL STATE.
Watching only!
I'M SURE YOU AL-READY KNOW THIS...

DAMMIT!
GRIPE
IF I WEREN'T CONTRACTED TO THIS TYRANT, I'D BE FAR AWAY FROM HERE
GRIPE
SIGH...
!
HH

ARE THOSE ...
...PIGEONS?
WHO ARE YOU...?
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
?
?!

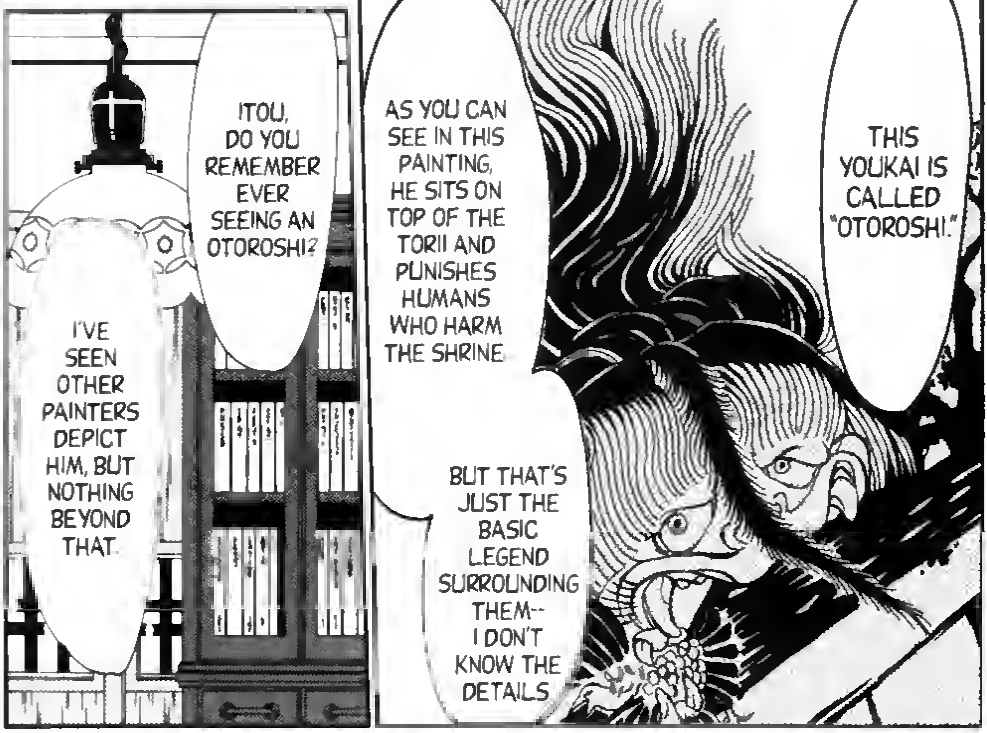
.....
...WHEN YOU'RE IN HIS DREAM, DON'T DO ANYTHING.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
?!



TERRIBLE.

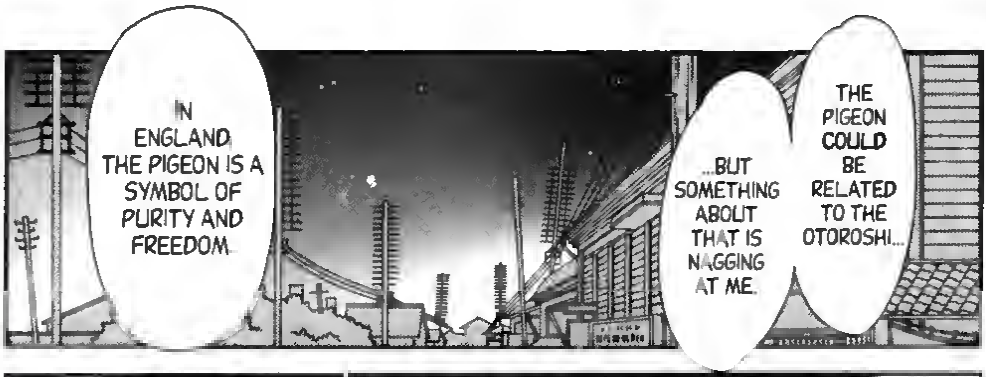
0
SO WHAT YOU SAW IN ITOU'S DREAM...
AND A YOUKAI SNUCK UP BEHIND YOU, RIGHT?
ITOU HAD HIS RIGHT EYE ATTACKED BY A PIGEON.
...WAS A TORII.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DIDN'T REALIZE IT BEFORE ME? YOU ALWAYS GET IT FIRST.
IMPRESSED
I... I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THIS YOUKAI IS CAUSING THAT NIGHTMARE.
!
!
BUT I DON'T GET IT!
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A YOUKAI I KNEW!
THE TWO IN THE KNOW.

tactics 8

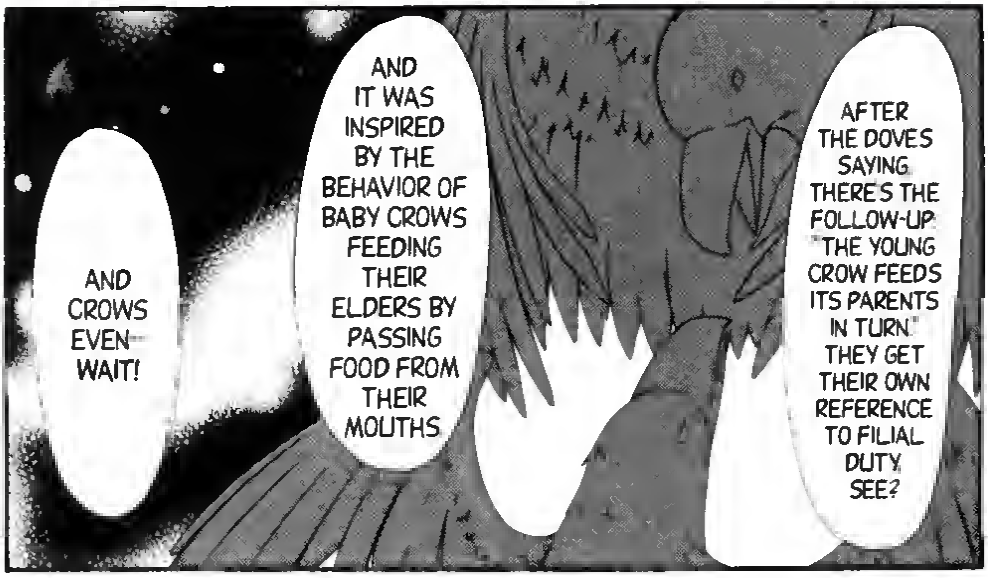

ITOU, DO YOU REMEMBER EVER SEEING AN OTOROSHI?
I'VE SEEN OTHER PAINTERS DEPICT HIM, BUT NOTHING BEYOND THAT.
AS YOU CAN SEE IN THIS PAINTING, HE SITS ON TOP OF THE TORII AND PUNISHES HUMANS WHO HARM THE SHRINE.
THIS YOUKAI IS CALLED "OTOROSHI."
BUT THAT'S JUST THE BASIC LEGEND SURROUNDING THEM-- I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS

IS HE PUNISHING ME...?
ISN'T THIS BIRD IN THE OTOROSHI'S CLAWS A PIGEON?
COULD THE PIGEON BE RELATED TO THE OTOROSHI AND ACT AS HIS SUBSTITUTE?
REALLY, I'M SURE.
OH!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. DID I DO SOME WRONG TO A SHRINE?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF AN OTOROSHI?

IT BREAKS MY HEART TO THINK THAT I MIGHT HAVE...
WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO ANGER AN OTOROSHI?


IN ENGLAND THE PIGEON IS A SYMBOL OF PURITY AND FREEDOM.
...BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THAT IS NAGGING AT ME.
THE PIGEON COULD BE RELATED TO THE OTOROSHI...

BUT ON THE TOPIC OF BIRDS, CROWS ARE THOUGHT OF NEGATIVELY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
SO THAT'S A POSITIVE THING THERE'S NO ROOM TO TAKE OFFENSE.
BUT IN JAPAN THERE'S THE SAYING "WITH DOVES THERE'S A COURTESY OF THREE BRANCHES" IT REFERENCES YOUNG DOVES PERCHING THREE BRANCHES LOWER THAN THEIR ELDERS A FORM OF FILIAL PIETY.


AFTER THE DOVES SAYING THERE'S THE FOLLOW-UP "THE YOUNG CROW FEEDS ITS PARENTS IN TURN." THEY GET THEIR OWN REFERENCE TO FILIAL DUTY, SEE?
AND IT WAS INSPIRED BY THE BEHAVIOR OF BABY CROWS FEEDING THEIR ELDERS BY PASSING FOOD FROM THEIR MOUTHS.
AND CROWS EVEN— WAIT!

WHAT IS IT?
PIGEONS AND CROWS...
THAT'S WHAT WAS BOTHERING ME. THANKS, HARUKA!
HUH...?
I didn't do anything.
NOW I SEE THE ROLES THE OTOROSHI AND THE PIGEONS PLAY.

THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE
TRYING TO DO MY JOB ACTUALLY CAUSED ME TO FAINT TODAY.
HA HA HA! WELL...I GIVE UP.

飲

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS TOKI. PLEASE CALM DOWN.
WAA-AAAH!
WHO'S SHE?
MISS TOKI. SHE'S HIS CARE-TAKER... SORT OF.
LOOKS LIKE THE OPPO-SITE

SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU MISS TOKI
BUT SWEEEEEEEET HEART!
SQUEEZING
OW!

THE CHARM AGAINST EVIL THAT YOU PLANTED WHEN WE WENT HOME YESTERDAY HAS BEEN BROKEN YOU REALIZE
WHOEVER WE'RE DEALING WITH IS IN A HURRY TO SEE US LEAVE.
I WONDER IF I'LL DIE LIKE THIS.
NEVER UNDER-STANDING WHY I'M BEING PUNISHED...
DON'T SAY THAT, ITOU.
IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK?
YOU KNOW...

I HOPE THE OTOROSHI DOESN'T MIND THAT I PICKED ONE LOCALLY.
MISTER KANTAROU SAID THAT ANY SHRINE WOULD DO.
AT NIGHT THE SHRINE IS MORE SOLEMN THAN SCARY.
WONDER WHERE MISTER KANTAROU AND MISTER HARUKA ARE...?
キィ
GET A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING...
...WITH THE ANGRY OTOROSHI.
ACHOO!!

AH!
...?
WHERE DID THEY ALL COME FROM?
THEY WEREN'T HERE A SECOND AGO....

THE PIGEONS CAN'T COME CLOSER.
BUT HOW?
?!
THIS SIGHT FEELS SO FAMILIAR
HAS THIS HAP PENED BEFORE?
...UGH.
I STILL CAN'T REMEM BER!
OW!
THE PIGEONS!
HUH?!

WHY ARE THE CROWS...?
A CROW ?!
THE MESSENGERS OF THIS SHRINE AREN'T PIGEONS.

THEY'RE THESE GUYS RIGHT HERE
MISTER KANTAROU!
TIME TO TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM, HARUKA.♡
MWA HA HA!

BZZT
BZZT
MISTER HARUKA!
HMPH.
YOU'RE STUBBORN AS HELL.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
MISTER HARUKA IS--!
RELAX, ITOU.

IT'S A COPY OF THE PICTURE OF THE OTOROSHI YOU SAW IN YOUR HOUSE.
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
?
HARUKA'S RIDICULOUSLY POWERFUL. HE'LL BE FINE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, LOOK AT THIS...
THE OTOROSHI'S NOT SUBJUGATING THE PIGEON...
...HE'S HOLDING ONTO HIM.
TO KEEP HIM FROM RUNNING AWAY.
THAT'S THE OTOROSHI'S DUTY.
CAAAAW!
CAAAAW!
DO YOU HEAR THAT, HUGE FACE?
I'VE PREPARED HIM FOR YOU.

HE'S PUNISHING THE PIGEON FOR DOING WRONG TO THIS SHRINE.
USE YOUR POWERS TO EAT HIM...
JUST LIKE IN THE PICTURE.
...UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.
OTOROSHI.

...I THINK I'M GONNA NAME YOU.
OTOKOSHI
IS THAT OKAY?
I'LL MAKE A NAME JUST FOR YOU!
!...

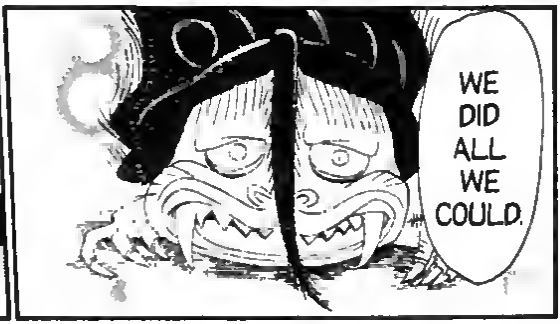
Stuffing yourself like that will give you heartburn. Assuming you have stomach acid.
MURF.

ITOU!
HEY, WAKE UP!

THE OTOROSHI AND I...

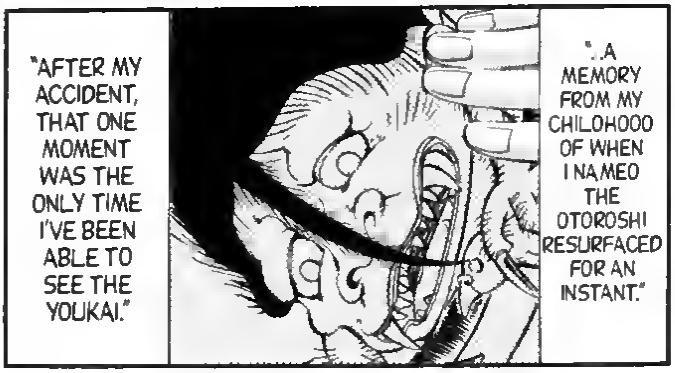
!
AT LEAST NOW...

JUST LEAVE IT.
CALL THE OTOROSHI BY HIS NAME!


WE DID ALL WE COULD.

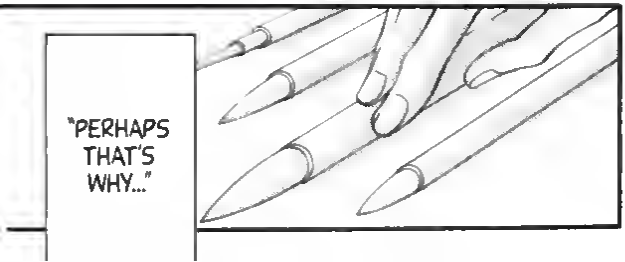
..YOUR FRIEND WON'T BE ATTACKED BY PIGEONS ANYMORE.
AND THAT'S A GOOD THING.
"GREETINGS, KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA."
"I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR ME THE OTHER DAY."
"EVER SINCE THEN, MY NIGHTMARES HAVE STOPPED, AND I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PAINT IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS."

"WHILE THAT SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE, AT THE SAME TIME, I FEEL A TERRIBLE SADNESS."
"ACCORDING TO MY COLLEAGUES, THOSE PIGEONS WERE PROBABLY CURSED RITUAL GODS."


"AFTER MY ACCIDENT, THAT ONE MOMENT WAS THE ONLY TIME I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE YOUKAI."
"...A MEMORY FROM MY CHILDHOOD OF WHEN I NAMED THE OTOROSHI RESURFACED FOR AN INSTANT."

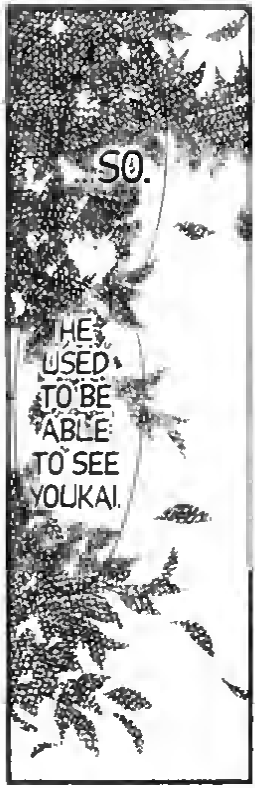
"THAT DAY..."

"I'M JUST FRUSTRATED THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER THE NAME I ONCE GAVE HIM."
"I PLAYED WITH YOUKAI LONG AGO. IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THE OTOROSHI HAS LOOKED AFTER ME ALL THIS TIME."


"PERHAPS THAT'S WHY..."

"...TO PORTRAY YOUKAI IN MY PAINTINGS."
"...I FEEL MORE INSPIRED THAN EVER..."
"I'M STILL FOOLISHLY IN LOVE WITH MY BELOVED YOUKAI."
"I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE MY CHILDHOOD."

THE PIGEON OF THE EQUESTRIAN PEOPLE IS ALSO A SYMBOL OF RELIGIOUS ECSTASY AS ESTABLISHED BY THE YAMATO GOVERNMENT
HACHIMAN IS SAID TO BE A GOD ORIGINALLY BROUGHT OVER FROM ABROAD
IN SHINTO PIGEONS ARE THE MESSENGERS TO SHRINES DEDICATED TO THE GOD OF HACHIMAN
THERE ARE SHRINES THROUGHOUT JAPAN WHOSE OFFICIAL MESSENGERS ARE CROWS


...SO.
HE USED TO BE ABLE TO SEE YOUKAI.

THAT GIANT FACE ATE THE PIGEONS TO TAKE THEIR ENERGY AND MATERIALIZE BRIEFLY.
.....

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THAT, THEY COULD BE A PART OF THE WORLDWIDE FAITH.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY SOME PEOPLE TAME THEM.
IN EITHER CASE, I IMAGINE THAT THE MYSTIC BEHIND ALL THAT HAD CONSIDERABLE POWER.

POOR ITOU.
AFTER HIS ACCIDENT, HE LOST BOTH HIS ABILITY TO SEE THEM AND HIS MEMORY OF IT.
I'M SURE THAT REALIZATION CAME TO HIM AS A SHOCK.
THAT OTOROSHI CONTINUOUSLY PROTECTED ITOU FROM THOSE CURSED PIGEONS.
BUT SINCE ITOU-KUN DIDN'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST MEMORY OF THE OTOROSHI, HIS POWER WAS WEAKENED.
I THINK THAT'S WHY IT EVENTUALLY CAME TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON ITOU'S EYE.
THAT PROVES HOW PRECIOUS AN "EXISTENCE" IS TO YOUKAI.
IF NOBODY ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR EXISTENCE, THEY DISAPPEAR
THAT'S WHY I USE MY WRITING TO MAKE THEM IMMORTAL.
...AND ITOU USES HIS ART TO PASS ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS
...THAT YOUKAI JUST WANTED TO HEAR ITOU CALL HIS NAME.

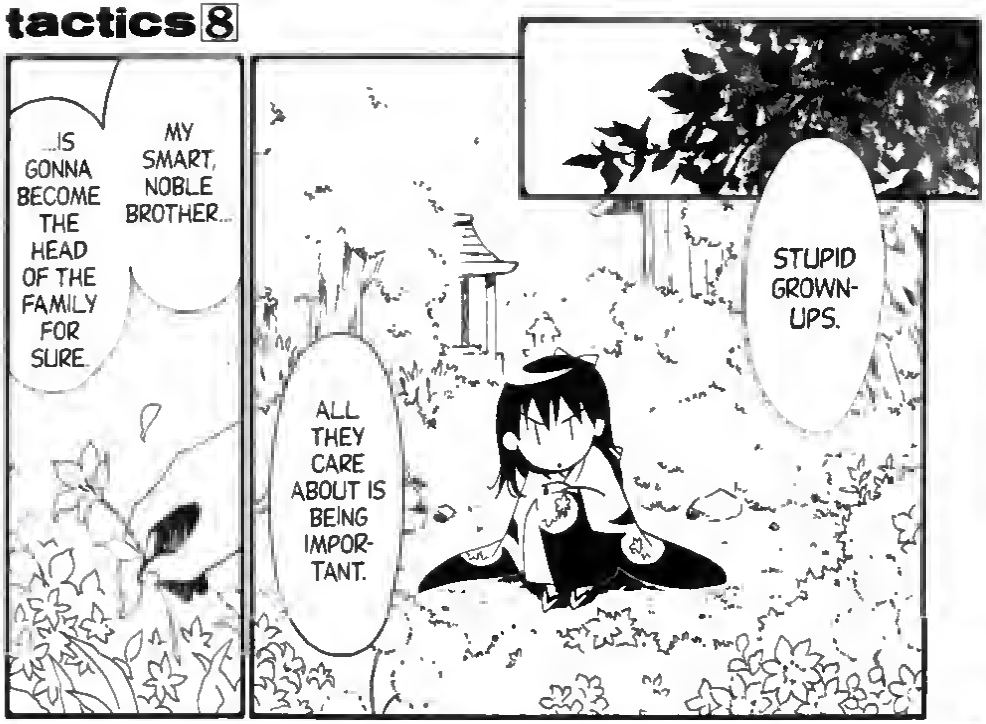
HE WILL SOMEDAY.
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THAT HUGE FACE WILL SHOW HIMSELF.
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP.
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU TO STICK AROUND. ♡
GO AHEAD AND GIVE UP. IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
NO, NEVER! I REFUSE REFUSE REFUSE!
AFTER ALL...
...THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE TOO RIGHT?
...YEAH.
... WHAT NOW?

WHEN WILL YOU FINALLY CALL ME BY MY NAME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
STOP WASTING MY TIME
ENTERTAIN ME A LITTLE...
...DEMON-EATING TENGU

KIYO!
KIYO!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
MISTRESS AYAME, I'M RIGHT~
JEEZ, KIYO!
EEEK! MISTRESS AYAME!

フリ
PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU.. BE MORE DISCRETE WITH YOUR TOMBOYISH MANNERS.
IT'S MY ONE AND ONLY WISH THAT YOU BECOME A CALM AND RESERVED FLOWER WHO WON'T BRING SHAME TO YOUR NAME.
フリ
I KNOW IT'S NOT MY RIGHT TO SAY THIS...
...BUT I STILL FEEL COMPEL-LED.
フリ
KIYO, WHICH RIBBON DO YOU THINK IS CUTER?
SIGH.
AH, WELL.
フリ
MISTRESS AYAME, YOU'RE A LADY OF THE DISTINGUISHED MINAMOTO FAMILY.
YOU DO HAVE REASON TO BE IN HIGH SPIRITS TODAY.
I'M GONNA GET TO SEE MY BROTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SO LONG!
...I HAVE TO LOOK MY BEST!
YEAH. TODAY'S THE DAY.

THEY SAY THE BOY'S THE BEST CANDIDATE TO NEXT HEAD THE FAMILY.
OBVIOUSLY! HE MINGLES WELL WITH THE ADULTS, AND HE'S VERY DIGNIFIED.
……
...ARE YOU LISTENING, MISTRESS?
THE NOH PERFORMANCE WILL BEGIN AT DUSK, SO I'LL ASK WHERE WE SHOULD MEET.
NOW WE'LL GET TO SEE HIM REHEARSE.
OH, MY! HOW LUCKY THAT WE'RE SO EARLY, MISTRESS!
YOU CUNNING WOMAN. I'LL BEAT YOU TO HIM!
I SUPPOSE NOW IS THE TIME TO GRAB HIM, THEN.


STUPID GROWN-UPS.
ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS BEING IMPOR-TANT.
MY SMART, NOBLE BROTHER...
...IS GONNA BECOME THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY FOR SURE.

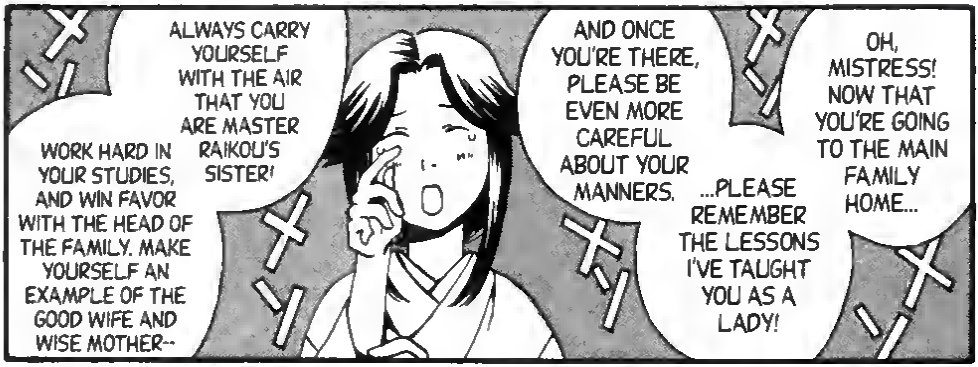
BUT THE REST OF THE HOUSEHOLD CAN BE SO MEAN.
I WANNA PROTECT MY BROTHER FROM THEIR NASTY WAYS.

!
YEEK!

OWIE...
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WAS IT A YOUKAI...?
EEEEK!
ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?
BROTHER!
Heya.
WOW. IS THAT YOU, AYAME?
LONG TIME NO SEE.
UM...DID YOU SEE SOMETHING WEIRD JUST JUMP OUT OF THERE, BROTHER?
NO. BUT I DID HAPPEN TO FIND THIS LOVELY LITTLE FLOWER.
OH.

TH-THANK YOU.
YOU'RE HURT. YOU POOR THING.
OH.
HUH?
I'D, UH... BETTER GET GOING.
I'M ACTUALLY CUTTING REHEARSAL RIGHT NOW.
REALLY?
IT'S SO BORING.
SEE YOU, AYAME.
R-RIGHT! GOOD LUCK, BROTHER!

HERE GOES.
YUP. COMING!
MISTRESS AYAME!
ARE YOU READY?


OH, MISTRESS! NOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO THE MAIN FAMILY HOME...
...PLEASE REMEMBER THE LESSONS I'VE TAUGHT YOU AS A LADY!
AND ONCE YOU'RE THERE, PLEASE BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL ABOUT YOUR MANNERS.
ALWAYS CARRY YOURSELF WITH THE AIR THAT YOU ARE MASTER RAIKOU'S SISTER!
WORK HARD IN YOUR STUDIES, AND WIN FAVOR WITH THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY. MAKE YOURSELF AN EXAMPLE OF THE GOOD WIFE AND WISE MOTHER--

NOW, THEN. MASTER RAIKOU AWAITS YOU, MY LADY.
COMING!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MANSION!
YES. IT WAS COMMIS-SIONED ESPECIALLY.
OH, BOY... NOW I'M NERVOUS!

.....

I UNDERSTAND, KIYO. THIS ISN'T GOODBYE FOREVER...BUT I'LL MISS YOU TOO.
OH, YOUNG MIST-RESS...

tactics 8 THE END

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

tactics

More of Haruka's hidden past is revealed when it is uncovered that his former master was also his former lover! But after Haruka was betrayed, it forever damaged his faith and trust in humans—something clearly demonstrated by his unwillingness to accept Kantarou's affections. But when Kantarou is kidnapped by the devious Minamoto, his resolve to harden his heart will be put to the ultimate test...